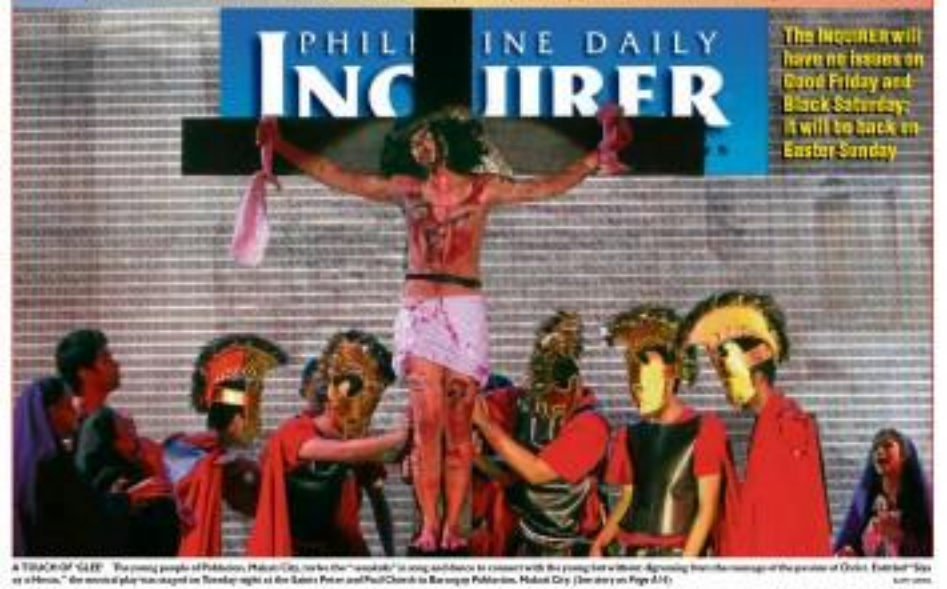
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The INQUIRER will have no issues on Good Friday and Black Saturday; it will be back on Easter Sunday



A TOUCH OF 'GLEE' The young people of Poblacion, Makati City, recites the "seudalo" in song and dance to connect with the young but without digressing from the message of the passion of Christ. Entitled "Siya ay si Hesus," the musical play was staged on Tuesday night at the Saints Peter and Paul Church in Barangay Poblacion, Makati City. (See story on Page A14)

Whistle-blower ties GMA

Noy irked with piers, bus terminal but Naia OK

By Christine O. Avendaño

A DAY after the government rolled out its elaborate preparations for the annual mad rush out of the capital, President Aquino seemed to showed some irritation at what he saw was the "semi-chaotic" situation at Cebu's Mactan Island-Cebu International Airport (Mactan-Cebu IAIA).

Only the Manila-Dagupan leaves unscathed by port (Pasay) Terminal 3 passed muster with the President who, with some Cabinet members, made the rounds of airport, bus and shipping terminals yesterday.

Mr. Aquino was dissatisfied with the situation unless authorities in those in charge of the Roxas Boulevard in Manila and the Araneta Center bus terminal in Cubao, Quezon City, both of

INSPECTOR GENERAL President Aquino walks by a statue of his late father Senator Ninoy Benigno Aquino Jr. during an inspection at the Naia on Wednesday. The President made the rounds of Metro Manila's transport hubs to check on their state of preparedness and services as hundreds of thousands leave the metropolis during the Holy Week break.

Royal wedding packed with ordinary people

LISBON — Spare a thought for the wedding planners on April 29, who must accommodate not only royals, diplomats and celebrities including David Beckham but also a million and a royal brother.

Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding guestlist reveals that to mix with the company they keep and limited at relatively new media urban royal fashionistas

'Bad Catholic' Noy to go on Visita Iglesia with sisters

PRESIDENT Aquino will be spending the rest of Holy Week with his family—and work.

The newest pain of his time will be spent with his sisters and their families, including being a good Catholic by going with them today for the traditional Visita Iglesia.

"My sisters asked me to go with them for the Visita Iglesia but I don't know which schedule so we will be visiting," said the 51-year-old bachelor, whose party has been questioned by Church clerics for his support of reproductive health legislation.

Mr. Aquino said he is also planning to go to his oldest sister, Ballsy Aquino Cruz, to discuss what churches to visit today.

Retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz said Fr. Jerry Orbos, the

Cecile Licad debut in Moscow: 'Awesome'

By Pablo A. Tariman
Correspondent

CELEBRATED Filipino pianist Cecile Licad made a very strong impression on Russian audiences when she made her historic Moscow debut with the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra on April 15 under the baton of Orquesta Artist of Russia Mark Gorenstein.

"Maestro Gorenstein has everything I look for in a conductor," said Licad. "My approach to music simply clicked with his and on top of that, he has a

Ombudsman assailed for filing sloppy case

By Lyela B. Salcedo-Ita and Christine O. Avendaño

OMBUDSMAN Merceditas Gutierrez threw diligence out the window when her office recommended the filing of plunder charges against key players of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam but included whistle-blower Jose Ruiredo, Malacañang yesterday said.

Ruiredo, who has pursued the Ombudsman's recommendation to charge him with plunder, said he attended on April 19 a covert restaurant breakfast with Sandy some days to different packets and alleging that the conspiracy went all the way up to Malacañang.

Ruiredo said last night that he based his statement that Malacañang was involved in the scheme on his own observation.

He said that because his boss was told to talk only with allies of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and that those who interfered to the opposition were deprived of the funds.

PH 'invaded' Spratlys in 1970s, China tells UN

CHINA countered a Philippine diplomatic protest to the United Nations by saying it has indisputable sovereignty over the Spratly islands that the South and Asian country "started to invade" in the 1970s.

China's diplomatic note to the UN, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press on Tuesday, said the Philippine occupation of some islands and reefs in the Nansha islands belongs to China's sovereignty. The Spratlys are known to the Chinese as Nansha islands.

A Philippine protest filed to the UN earlier this month said China's claim to islands, whi

₱1.3-B vets office here, only facility outside US

By Tarra Quismundo

IT WAS a "weekend miracle" in Amauti: the team of leaders hauled 60,000 case folders, 350 computers and millions worth of medical equipment through Roxas Boulevard in Manila to their new home, rushing through the miserable finish the master before the start of a new workweek.

By Monday, Filipino and American war veterans were welcomed at the new United States Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) office on Roxas Boulevard, all on schedule for their claims and medical appointments at a new one-stop shop manned by an all-Filipino staff.

"We closed our Iloilo offices on Friday night, and by Monday morning, we were open for the decision that the move was our problems, not the veterans," said 35 DVA Manila Director Joe Shelby.

Since then, the new 10-DVA building has been providing free service to at least 130 veterans a day at the new building in the US Embassy's Seafront Compound on Roxas Boulevard, bringing together under

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Ayala ventures into hydro power

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Celtics hold off Knicks; 'Superman' lifts Magic

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy
Dagupan city	Mostly cloudy
Laoag	Partly cloudy
Naga city	Mostly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly cloudy
Catarman	Mostly cloudy
Iloilo	Partly cloudy
Cebu	Partly cloudy
Tacloban	Mostly cloudy
Dipolog	Partly cloudy
Davao	Partly cloudy
Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
General Santos	Partly cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

Website alert: See more in InfoInquirer

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Explain price hikes, oil firms told

By Christine O. Avendaño and Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy (DOE) is asking oil companies that raised pump prices for the umpteenth time to explain why the latest round of increases was higher than computations showed.

The DOE pointed out that the price increases implemented beginning Tuesday were higher than its computations of P0.60 a liter for diesel and 20 centavos for gasoline.

Letters had been sent to the companies that jacked up fuel prices almost three levels, the DOE said.

Citing soaring global oil prices, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron (formerly Caltex) and Total Philippines (the other day raised the price of gasoline by 60 centavos per liter, of kerosene by 40 centavos a liter, and of diesel by 25 centavos per liter.

Petron Corp., the country's largest oil refiner and retailer, did not increase the prices of its petroleum products.

Chevron rollback

A day after it raised prices, however, Chevron implemented a rollback, effectively cancelling the oil price hike on Tuesday.

Chevron said it cut the prices of gasoline by 60 centavos a liter, kerosene by 40 centavos a liter, and diesel by 25 centavos a liter, effective noon Wednesday.

"Prices of petroleum are dictated by market forces," it said, without providing any further details. Six other companies made a similar move as of press time.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. said the source of yesterday's confusion in the Middle East and South Africa and market fears of supply disruptions were pushing up fuel prices to near-record levels.

Since the beginning of the year, local oil firms have raised fuel prices 13 times, adding up to a total increase of P18.20 a liter for gasoline and P18.40 a liter for diesel. Total reductions, on the other hand, amounted to marginal at only P1.70 a liter for gasoline and 25 centavos for diesel.

President Aquino has asked the DOE to simplify its process of determining oil prices for the benefit of the public, so the people could understand it.

"This will also show and demonstrate if the oil prices are right or wrong," the President said.

Asked if he was amenable to the idea of oil firms absorbing fuel hauls, Mr. Aquino said this load fees his position since entering public service.

Like Pilate

Two militant groups, however, likened the President to Pontius Pilate for his alleged neglect in addressing the people's "long drawn-out demands" for "jobs, homes and justice."

In a statement, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Kilusang ng Bagong Mobilisasyon lashed out at Mr. Aquino for his "inaction" in preventing oil price increases, including the jacking up of cooking gas prices by P1 per kilogram by resellers on Tuesday.

They noted that while the government "tolerates" the price increases of basic commodities, it "refuses" to grant the P1,200 national daily-wage hike nationwide that workers have been pushing for.

Workers like Christ

"For the longest time, our Filipino workers (and like Jesus Christ in Pilate's context) this cross to Calvary — On the other hand, modern-day Pontius Pilate (PNoy) and capitalistas (big businesses) continue to crucify and slash the backs of our working people in the form of meager wages, labor flexibilization schemes and inhumane working conditions," Joy Luzon wool, Kadamay-MCR chair, said.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said a task force made up of the DOE and the Department of Justice (DOJ) had been created to evaluate the response of the oil firms to the DOE request.

"[The DOE] wants to know the basis for increasing their prices," Lacierda told reporters at a press briefing.

He noted that some oil firms did not increase prices like the others.

Lacierda said the DOE-DOJ task force would "evaluate situations if any."

He said he did not know what liability the oil firms would have should it be proven that they erred in issuing prices.

Lacierda reiterated that the DOE was to announce discussions with transport groups, oil firms and affected sectors as there would be transparency in the real market prices of oil.

Carcapacion quiet

He noted that even consumer advocate Raul Concepcion had not been making any statements about the oil price increases because the DOE was "very strict" about the oil prices.

Until, meanwhile, said it was giving away P50 worth of gasoline with purchases of P1,000 worth of petroleum products from any of its participating stations.

"Since the public is about to go on vacation we intend to ease the burden of the consumers by giving discounted prices before they go on their holidays vacation," Uniwide said in a statement.

Radaway and Bayan slammed the Aquino administration's "marching backs" approach to tackle "social injustices" that include unemployment, "homelessness" and low wages, issues which they said were the root causes of the "worsening hunger and poverty incidence" in the country.

They also criticized Aquino's flagship policies that reportedly mimic the policies of the US government, such as private-public partnerships, deregulation, contractualization schemes, and dependency on exports. With a report from Kristine Felimon Mangunay

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1st kiddie liver transplant patient showing remarkable progress

By Tarra Quismundo

CATCHING! Erica Basconcillo soon has the strength to blow out the candle on her cake at the birthday party Uniwide for her by The Medical City

AT THE AGE of four, Catherine Erica Basconcillo is just starting life anew.

Every day, she walks eyed "Dora the Explorer" fan to cajoled to try new things. Walking on her own, helping her mom wash the dishes, playing with friends and singing her favorite songs.

Life is normal again, and it's a breakthrough. More than three months after undergoing the country's first pediatric liver transplant by an all-Filipino surgery team at The Medical City (TMC), Erica is more child than ever as she turned four last Saturday.

"At first, we couldn't believe how far her improvement was. We were surprised that everything was happening so fast. She now eats better, she is able to walk on her own, which she was not able to do before," said Erica's mother, Carmela, in Filipino.

"Now, she's just like her siblings. She's now undergoing the normal stage she wants to do, we let her do it as long as she doesn't get hurt," said the mother of five of her youngest.

Erica celebrated with a "Dora the Explorer" party hosted by TMC, gathering some 100 well-wishers at the Pasig City hospital.

Her donor, 19-year-old uncle Arl Ivman Damitan, came with the rest of the family.

The doctors and nurses who took care of Erica during her Jan. 7 operation turned up bearing gifts.

Officials from the Philippine Country Transplants Office, which helped shoulder Erica's P9.3 million operation, also came.

"This is her second birth. Celebrating a birthday is thanking God for giving us life. And she was given life twice," said PCTO Chair Margarita Arroyo.

"This is a story of courage. And an institution like TMC had to give a response, which was hard work and expertise. We're celebrating her and we hope that we're also reviewing stories of generosity, hard work and courage," said TMC president and CEO Dr. Alfredo Bengzon.

Dr. Ma. Veronica de Villa, head of Erica's surgery team, said the patient showed remarkable progress barely four months after her operation from with a liver disease. Erica had to remain at the hospital for four weeks after the surgery to be well enough for at-home recovery, said the doctor.

"Her progress has been very good. Slowly she's gaining weight, her complexion is improving. Her lips are more red. And lately she's started walking on her own. That's a milestone," said De Villa, director of TMC's Center for Liver Disease Management and Transplantation.

In tearful remarks during the party, Carmela said no Filipino "People ridiculed us for wanting Erica to get better. People asked why we were still seeking treatment when she would die anyway. We took that as a challenge for this family to go on and help her get well."

Church sets run for youth, pope

JOIN NOW the young Filipinos that for Pope John Paul II.

On the day John Paul II is to be beatified, the archdiocese of Manila will stage a fun run to help send youth delegates to Spain for the 26th World Youth Day which John Paul initiated in 1986.

"It is important for us to send young delegates to World Youth Day because it brings this strange inspiration by things among them," said Fr. Ramon Isidel Licsi ster, head of the Manila archdiocese's commission on youth.

The Pope visited the Philippines in 1995 to celebrate the 10th World Youth Day, which was attended by over four million people, by far the largest papal gathering in Church history.

"We are doing this [fun run] because Pope John Paul II put it, the young people are not only the future of the Church, they are the now, the present," Licsi ster said in a press conference in Intramuros, Manila, Monday.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said that aside from raising funds for the 13 youth delegates representing the 13 vicariates of the archdiocese, the fun run would also be one way the Philippine Church can celebrate the beatification of the late Pope in Rome.

"We are all hoping that we can be confident that we can ask for the late Pope's intercession and he will become a model to all of us," said Pabillo.

The race will be held on May 1, the day the Vatican will mount an elaborate service signifying the last formal step before John Paul is canonized a saint.

Pabillo encouraged the young, particularly members of running clubs in the capital to join the event, which will be divided into three categories: 3 km, 5 km and 10 km, with respective registration fees, P400, P600 and P800.

Senior citizens may join the event by sponsoring a younger runner, Licsi ster said.

The Archdiocese expects at least 10,000 runners participate in the event to raise P4 million for the 13 delegates to the World Youth Day in August, a youth-oriented Catholic festival held every three years. Jerelyn R. Ely

Slain botanist's ashes lie in forest he made 'alive'

By Lizbi B. Salaverria (a Manila) and Mikaelee Vicaya Jr. (Baguio Northern Luzon)

IN DEATH... they remembered him as the man who made the forests come alive.

The passion with which slain botanist and renowned Leonard de Co pursued the study and conservation of Philippine plants the has been kept alive by his family, friends and colleagues.

On Monday, Co got his last stride—if not his oldest by method on a 10-hectare forest patch in Palauan, Isabela, where he had conducted research. He spent part of his life studying plants and the forests at the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park.

A week-long trek through the Sierra Madre mountains and an ambush by his friends and colleagues in a tribute to his work and contribution to the study and preservation of Philippine flora.

The Palauan Co-Sierra Madre Park coordinator Jose-of Co's passion for botany—starting and science, and his brother-in-law Jaewie Flores, who organized the adventure.

Last remaining rainforest

The trek started Monday and will end on April 25.

Co devoted many years to studying the forests of Palauan, which is part of the Northern Sierra Madre Nature Park, and even authored a book on it.

"My want to bring to the people attention the grandeur of the last remaining rainforest [in Luzon]," Flores said in an interview.

Little did he was promptly one short on May 15 but year in a hail of gunfire in the forest of Barangay, in Leyte, along with two of his companions, Rolando Cortes and Aldo Bustamante.

The military claimed that Co's team, which was conducting research for the Department of Energy Development Corp., was caught in a crossfire between government soldiers and communist rebels.

But the botanist's family and friends countered this version and believe the military group was responsible for the deaths.

Friend, cause-mourned

"He is a great loss to the environment advocacy. We will always be remembered and only in a good friend but as a conservation botanist," said Wilfredo Revilla, provincial environment and natural resources officer (Penro) in Isabela.

Co was considered with discovering and documenting endemic plant species around the country. He also worked with communities in the Cordillera, teaching indigenous people to harvest the potentials of native plants to cure various illnesses and diseases.

He authored the book, "Common Medicinal Plants in the Cordillera Region: A Trained's Manual for Community Based Health Programs," which describes more than 120 medicinal-dedicated plants in the region, and a book on the diversity of the Palauan forest.

Due to his contribution to Philippine botany, officials of the Lopez group of companies, which controls the Energy Development Corp., helped form the Leonardo Co Foundation and funded the trek to honor him.

"All at once everything on the forest floor and canopy came alive, had a name, had a story, had a purpose," Dolores Lopez, president of Energy Development Corp., the parent company of EDC, said during the launch of the trek at Rockwell in Makati City.

Ricardo Flores, a member of the expedition support group, said the trek was organized as a way to preserve and conserve the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, described as the "last great forest" in the country.

Flores said the 10-member expedition team traveled 14 hours from Metro Manila to Aurora, where they took a boat to the Palauan coast.

Forest dynamics plot

On Monday, the team, Palauan residents and Co's friends and relatives went to the "forest dynamics plot" that Co had established and scattered a third of his ashes in his last wished.

The other are details of his ashes went to the University of the Philippines' Institute of Biology and to the family.

Flores said the expedition team would document flora and fauna during the trek through the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. The team is expected to arrive in San Mariano town on April 28.

HOME SAFE HOME
Fifty Filipinos, including 37 children escaping the radiation threat from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan arrived yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. They completed the second batch of repatriates which brought to 99 the number of Filipinos evacuating temporarily respite from the problem in Japan brought about by the March 11 killer earthquake and tsunami. AP/EDDIE

3 Reds give up; truce pushed

TWO TOP communist rebel leaders surrendered while a third was captured Wednesday in a fresh blow to the insurgency amid ongoing peace talks, the military said.

Wenelyn Capuzzo and his wife, Debbie, gave themselves up in Davao, saying they were tired of fighting, the military said in a statement.

Capuzzo was vice commander of the New People's Army's (NPA) regional committee Davao, while Hizon was the political officer.

"He decided the operational command and was in charge of the armed component," regional Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Sol Vellan told Agence France-Presse. "Their surrender is a big blow to the revolutionary movement."

An intelligence officer at the 10th rebel front on Negros Island was also arrested.

Two hundred were wanted for various crimes, including extortion, the military said in a statement without giving details.

The government wounded peace talks with the communist rebels in February after a ceasefire pact fell. Both sides said after the first round of negotiations they believe a peace pact could be signed by June 2012.

Chief government negotiator Alex Padilla told AFP Wednesday he believed the latest surrenders indicated divisions in the rebel ranks, and that this would bolster the government's position in the talks.

"It should give renewed confidence to the government side," Padilla said.

He said the next round of talks hosted by Norway would likely be held in June.

Quirino Rep. Junel Elipedo has gave yesterday urged Malacañang to declare a cease-fire with the communists when this week.

Aquino said that while past Holy Week cease-fires began on Palm Sunday and lasted until Easter Sunday, he believed there was still time to enforce a truce from Holy Thursday to at least Easter Sunday.

"I don't see sometimes of the military to bother them none at all. It is more beneficial for them to still have a halt in fighting," he said.

"All the Police or Department of Defense has to do is issue a statement saying it had ordered all soldiers and policemen not to carry out offensive actions against the NPA from Thursday to Sunday and wait for the other side to issue a similar declaration, " he said.

Cynthia D. Balana/ AFP

Whistle-blower ties GMA; OMB hit for sloppy case

From page A1

He said he received his information from Marides Ayroso, the one who was talking with then Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, considered the point man in the scam.

Sharing of loads

Barredo said he was issuing a sworn statement to clarify his earlier testimony.

He alleged that the funds for the purchase of fertilizer were divided as follows: 30 percent for undersecretaries, governors or mayors; 25 percent for officials of the Department of Agriculture; 25 percent for Pro-bam Philippines Inc.

He said Jocelyn Bolante was the one that did not get inbox in the 25 percent deal sent to someone.

Barredo said he became a trainer in 2004, and was assigned to handle Bulacan and Region 3. He earned P10,000 a month.

Barredo said he orders from agriculture officials who gave the signal when there were already funds to buy farm inputs and implements for food producers and units of congressional districts.

Barredo said that when funds become available, the money would go to the politician to get him or her to enter into a deal. The official would be made to sign a memorandum of agreement, which would eventually be brought to the office of Bolante.

Up to Malacañang

Bolante had the authority to expedite the inputs and implements programs based on a memorandum from former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, according to Barredo.

"All money know that the conspiracy goes up to the highest level of the Department of Agriculture and beyond, up to Malacañang, because the transaction is all known a than the only ones who could benefit from the conspiracy are the office of the President for the May 2004 elections," Barredo said in the sworn statement.

Overpriced, politicians

He also said the fertilizer bought from Bohan was overpriced. It only cost P650 per bag at the market, but the government paid P1,200 per metric bottle. He noted that 90 percent of the bottle's content was water, and only 10 percent was fertilizer.

No due diligence

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said it was "clear" that the Office of the Ombudsman "did not look into the Senate committee report properly" as the report did not recommend that Barredo be charged.

Lacierda said the Ombudsman also charged someone who had already died, something he attributed to the long delay in crossing the case. (See story on this page.)

"Clearly, it shows that some things just fell through the cracks, and they failed to observe diligence when they filed the information," he told reporters.

The spokesperson of Gutierrez, Tonette Orejola, said the plunder charge was recommended against Barredo because she, too, didn't directly benefit from the fund scam, but he could still turn state witness.

Barredo, a confessed "tara-nee" in the scam, said he made the affidavit in case it was needed in the impeachment trial of Gutierrez, which included charges that she had sat on the Bohan deal.

He made the sworn statement while he was waiting for the formal filing of the plunder charge against him. He said he did not intend to be silent about the scandal, although he was about to be charged for it.

Barredo said turning state witness was an option he was looking at. He earlier said that he thought he had been granted immunity when he agreed to testify at Senate hearings on the alleged diversion of the funds, or fund to the presidential campaign of during 2004.

Politicians named

Barredo, in his sworn statement, named the politicians he had dealt with as a runner in the fertilizer deal. But then Mayor Lito Ballaron, Eliseo Bigalbal, Cirilito Galicia, Dulcesio Mayo Bataan Representative Abdan Gan. Pro-vincial Board Member Reynaldo Cayat Gan Vi-cente Bermejo, Pinili Cagid Rep. Ferdinand Catalino Cabochan Cortes, Celling Mayor Mel-

Contreras, Landmanuel Reyes Jr., Alvin Bernard, Manolo Mayor Mariano Malvares, Estanislao Rep. Edgar Espinosa, Jocelyn Bag. Ilocos Provincial Bo. Ilocos Governor Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr., Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Marañon III and Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Lacson.

He said the funds meant for Castro, the Marañons and Lacson were avoided because they moved to the opposition.

Former Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. expressed surprise at Barredo's inclusion in the charges, saying those Barredo did not recommend him or among the people to be indicted. Magsaysay chaired the agriculture committee that looked into the scam in 2003-2004.

Separate office

While the Office of the Ombudsman has given reasons for the Senate's findings, it is not required to follow it to the letter, according to Orejola.

The Ombudsman's based its recommendation to file charges on the report of its own investigators, he said.

"Being a separate office, [the Office of the Ombudsman] is not necessarily bound by the findings of the Senate," he said. "We have a lot of respect for it and it has become a basis of a lot of investigations by Ombudsman's case, the fact-finding team further investigated the people involved, including Barredo," Orejola said.

He also noted that Barredo, through his own statements, had admitted participation in the scheme.

He said Barredo also did not apply for immunity when the Office of the Ombudsman was continuing the case. The chance to do this had lapsed, but Barredo could apply to be a state witness.

To be a state witness, Barredo would have to be the first public, Orejola said. The prosecution would also have to evaluate the evidence. But the final say on whether he would become a state witness rests with the court, he said.

Frank Chavez

Former solicitor general Frank Chavez has agreed to represent Barredo and vowed to appear in the case, Barredo's counsel, Constantino de la Cruz, further changes against him.

"I will enter my appearance as a counsel and ask for a reinvestigation as far as Barredo is concerned," Chavez, now a private practitioner, told in an interview.

No probable cause

Chavez, the plaintiff in a 2004 plunder case against Arroyo concerning loan the fertilizer scam, said a version of the Senate inquiry, and there was no probable cause to charge Barredo with plunder.

"He was not a runner and the amount involved in the illegal purchase funds as it turned out, was returned and there are even much for the refund limit of P50 million," he said. "In the historical of responsibility he is at the lowest rung."

Barredo said he thinks the officials in the Ombudsman could be used as "tools" by those who are unable to oppose Arroyo during the impeachment trial of Gutierrez. Earlier, he said he had heard talk that he would be required to appear as a witness at the impeachment trial, but that such arrangements have been made.

Barredo wondered whether he was ordered charged because of talk that he might be asked to testify at Gutierrez's trial.

Orejola said Barredo's possible participation in the impeachment trial would not have his chances of applying to be a state witness. "There's nothing personal there... The Ombudsman has nothing against Barredo," he said. With a report from TJ Burgonio

Noy irked with North Harbor, bus terminal but happy with Naia

From page A1

which cost a record number of passengers leaving for the provinces yesterday.

Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week are the two days when the Philippines sees the biggest volume of travelers.

In a briefing on the government contingency plans for Holy Week on Tuesday, Mr. Aquino was assured by police, military, transport and disaster officials that they were prepared for the heavy influx of people travelling all over the country.

'Happy' with Naia

The President made his first stop at Ninoy Aquino International Terminal 3 (NAIA 3) where he observed the new facilities and the long queues of passengers waiting to be processed.

Mr. Aquino then proceeded to Gate 9 (Terminal 1) where he inspected the baggage security machines and then proceeded to where passengers were lined up at the check-in counters.

The President's last stop was Araneta Center bus terminal where passengers waited for the flights.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Aquino said he was "happy" with what he saw at the airports. "The airport is okay," he said.

'Needs improvement'

But he said North Harbor and Araneta Center bus terminal needed improvements insofar as service to passengers was concerned.

Mr. Aquino said he did not mind Governor Vilma Santos' plan to turn the Araneta Center bus terminal into a commercial center, but he said he wanted to be sure that the new terminal for buses and passengers would be ready before the start of the summer season.

Mr. Aquino said he did not mind Governor Vilma Santos' plan to turn the Araneta Center bus terminal into a commercial center, but he said he wanted to be sure that the new terminal for buses and passengers would be ready before the start of the summer season.

He also inspected the terminals where passengers wait for departure time.

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'Needs improvement'

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Phone call all cops have to go on

By Marlon Ramos

THE PHONE call that Pilar Police chief Supt. Rommel Marbil's missing companion purportedly made to her husband a day after she and the actress were seized by two men in Marikina City could be the proof of life the police are looking for, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, CIDG director, said he directed Special Investigation Task Group (SITG) Pilar to validate the information that Raoul Jaluzot's Police called up her husband Nelson Pelias at around 10 a.m. on Friday.

Nelson is a younger brother of Pilapil's husband, Bernie Pelias, police said.

In the short phone call Raoul reportedly told her husband that she was in trouble and feared for her life.

At the time, Pilapil was already in Tito Medical City in Pasig to where she was brought three days after Antipolo District Hospital where she was initially treated for multiple knife wounds.

"That cell phone call could be a proof of life," said Pagdilao.

"We did not have any information about it, but I will have it validated," he told the reporters over the phone. "It will be helpful to our investigation."

Senior Supt. Joel Coronel, head of SITG Pilar, had earlier said that Pilapil's husband had received a text message from his wife's mobile phone a few hours after the incident.

In the text sent from Pilapil's phone which was taken from the actress, someone said they were "in a taxi and on the way home."

Six days after the incident, police were still stumped by the attempt on the life of Pilapil and the apparent abduction of Pelias.

Aside from the outgoing-government's usage of the suspect who stabbed Pilapil, Pagdilao admitted SITG Pilar had no evidence.

"This is just part of the normal course of police investigation. There are some processes which are not under our control," he said.

"We are focused on our main front for the (assailants) and the recovery of the missing vehicle," he added.

Pagdilao said investigators were looking at the case as a carjacking, abduction or robbery-(GR).

He said several CIDG tracker teams had formed out to the provinces to find Pelias and the Kia Carnival the victims were in the night they were seized at the Boni-Sandoz Corner in Marikina-(GR).

Pagdilao declined to comment on Gilbert Philippines' statement that Pelias was never employed by the British Dutch multinational company. Unilever also denied owning the Kia car.

After rains, heat is on

By Leila B. Salaverria

WEDNESDAY'S rains may have provided some respite from the heat, but expect the rest of the Holy Week to be warm and muggy, especially in Luzon, according to the Philippine, Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Weather division chief Robert Jose said yesterday's rains, which were experienced in most of northern and central Luzon, including Metro Manila, were caused by the tail end of a cold front. The rains are expected to ease up today.

"It is expected that beginning [Thursday], we will be back to warm and humid conditions," said Jose over the phone.

Jose said April is usually the hottest month of the year when temperatures tend to go high as 37 degrees Celsius.

In fact this month, the hottest temperature recorded has been 37.2 degrees, which was on April 9 in Laoag City, he said.

In its weather outlook for the Holy Week, Pagasa said the Visayas and Mindanao would experience scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. Widespread rains are expected over eastern Visayas and eastern Mindanao on Friday until Sunday.

For Luzon, the weather is expected to be warm and humid.

Pagasa earlier said summer this year would not be as hot as last year due to the La Niña weather phenomenon.

Naia banks on old 'smiles' slogan

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE MANILA International Airport Authority (MIAA) has adopted the marketing strategy of the former administration which had branded the country's main gateway as the "smiling airport."

MIAA General Manager Jose Angel Honrado told reporters: "There is no reason to change what's good in improving the system."

"It was a good project... dapat maisip (it should be continued)," noted Honrado at yesterday's flagraising at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 where the new Terminal 1 lacked in facilities.

Last week, an instructive website, "The Guide to Sleeping in Airports," voted the terminal one of the world's 10 worst and the worst in Asia, both tying with dreadful in an "hundred and sixty" and a "cattle yard, only worse."

The ranking was based on reviews by air travelers who complained of, among other things, "shabby restrooms, lack of comfortable seating, rude staff, hostile security, poor facilities, bribery and general hassles of being in the airport."

The website, however, pointed out "There is hope if you go to Naia Terminal 1 which is clean, spacious and has friendlier customers."

Honrado acknowledged the 30-year-old Terminal 1 had seen better days.

"It was once the best in Southeast Asia... but nagagalit pasaro ng ng panahon (time passed by)," he said.

In 2009, then MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi launched a grade program at Naia Terminal 1, emphasizing that smiling was a trait Filipinos were known for. Dubbed the airport slogan, "We make the extra mile."

In 2000, MIAA under a similar drive the agency came up with a jingle, "Naia Ikaw, Our Joy."

Honrado said the MIAA had no plans to replace the terminal with a new facility.

But he assured he "improve services in the best of my ability."

"We're embarking on major efforts, like making the corridor seems as clean, functional and fully-equipped as possible. We can't build new ones... we will also try to improve the working relationship among the 33 (government) agencies operating (at Terminal 1) so they can come up with a common vision and move forward together," he said.

Lenten retreat set at Araneta

FR. ARCHIE Gaerlan will highlight "Santo Healing Power" in a three-day Lenten retreat at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Black Saturday. Admission is free in the events that will be held from 1 to 10 p.m. and will "Santo Healing Power" is a three-day Lenten retreat at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Black Saturday. Admission is free in the events that will be held from 1 to 10 p.m. and will

"In the hours of economic crises, social turmoil and natural disasters, all Filipinos should solemnly meditate on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ so that we shall obtained true light, eternal rewards of evil, and therefore assert the blessings and protection of our Lord God," Gaerlan said.

Gaerlan, founder of the International Catholic Charismatic Foundation, hosts programs over Radyo Veritas, dwAD, and MFM dwDD. He belongs to the Franciscan Order and says Mass and holds healing rallies every Saturday at the Quezon Memorial Circle from 4 to 9 p.m. He has preached all over the world.

SSS ADVISORY

The Social Security System (SSS) announces its complete power shutdown in the SSS Main Office Building from **8:00 a.m.** of **April 21, 2011 (Thursday)** to **10:00 a.m.** of **April 24, 2011 (Sunday)**, to give way to the scheduled Annual Preventive Maintenance services of its electrical facilities.

Accordingly, all computer operations will also cease within the specified period, thus, online services such as the SSS website (sss.gov.ph), Text SSS and the automated telephone assistance will be unavailable during this period.

Thank you for your understanding.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Feast of The Divine Mercy

May 1, 2011

(First Sunday after Easter, which is now designated in the Church's liturgical books as the Second Sunday of Easter)

1. Beginning with Good Friday as a preparation for the Feast of Mercy according to our Lord's express wish. It is greatly recommended to give honor to the Divine Mercy in action to honor (later and repeat) by offering the Novena to the Divine Mercy for the conversion of the whole world and for the Divine Mercy will be known to that extent we will (and) Christ's goodness.
2. To the celebration of the Feast of the Divine Mercy (now) also has an extraordinary promise:

"I desire (who go to) Confession (not before or on the Feast and receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast of the Divine Mercy and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

(Make this a permanent devotion in your life to obtain salvation for you and your loved ones.)

The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy

(to pray in recitation of ordinary rosary beads)

Begin with One Father... Hail Mary... I believe in God...

On the OUR FATHER beads: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in reparation for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the HAIL MARY beads: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

CONCLUDE with: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3 times)

Amen.

3 O'clock Prayer

"You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world."

O Fountain of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

"O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You."

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and the whole world." (3x)

Amen (sing it Mary on boat is You)

First Day

Today bring to Me

ALL MANKIND, ESPECIALLY ALL SINNERS,

and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Divine Eyes, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. By the value of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy forever and ever. Amen.

Second Day

Today bring to Me

THE SOULS OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS,

and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy. It was they who gave me strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them as through channels My mercy flows upon mankind.

Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in men and women consecrated to Your service! Bestow over generous worthy works of mercy, and that all who see them may glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company of chosen ones in Your vineyard — upon the souls of priests and religious and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.

PH 'invaded' Spratlys in 1970s, China tells UN

From page A1

rent waters, seabed and subsoil in the South China Sea had no basis in international law. The territorial claims were detailed in a map submitted to the UN in 2009.

The Philippines, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam claim in whole or in part the Spratlys—a group of islands, reefs and atolls in the South China Sea believed to be strategic way rich oil and gas reserves.

Vietnam and Malaysia filed protests in 2009 against China's map, and Indonesia, a nonclaimant in the disputed territory, also protested last year.

The protests are registered with the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, which will help mediate conflicting claims on territories.

'Totally unacceptable'

China said the contents of the Philippine diplomatic note "are totally unacceptable to the Chinese government."

The Philippines has said the Kalayaan Island Group in the Spratlys was an integral part of the country which has sovereignty and jurisdiction over security matters and geological features under the international law principle that land dominates the sea.

China said the Kalayaan Island Group was part of its Nansha Islands and its sovereign and related rights were supported by abundant historical and legal evidence.

It said before the 1970s, the Philippines never made any claims to the islands in a series of treaties delineating its territory.

"Since the 1970s, the Republic of the Philippines started to invade and occupy some islands and reefs of China's Nansha Islands and made relevant territorial claims, to which China objects strongly," said Ong Keng Yong, secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

China said the document that a legal right cannot arise from an unlawful act applied, since the Philippines could not right fully claim the islands.

Asked for comment, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday said the note verbale sent by the Philippine Permanent Mission to the UN "speaks for itself."

"We should leave it at that," DFA spokesperson J. Eduardo Malaya told the reporters. Reports from AP and Jerry Esplanada

Cecile Licad debut concert in Moscow: 'Awesome'

From page A1

great personality. Her musicmaking was almost up there on a psychic level. I had to control myself because I was close to tears on the second movement of the Brahms concerto with orchestra directed with the touch as I did. It was an engagement of a lifetime," Licad said.

"This engagement is simply indescribable," Licad told the Inquirer upon her arrival in New York from Moscow. "The conductor was great, the Tchaikovsky Hall was full with not a single seat vacant, the piano was superb and the Russian audience is one of the most music-obsessed I have encountered in my whole life," she added.

Licad got the thrill of her performance life when she got the traditional rhythmic applause from the Russian audience some of whom went on stage to offer her flowers. "I was simply overwhelmed by the audience reaction," the renowned Filipino pianist said.

First time

A lady from the artistic staff of the orchestra announced that Licad's interpretation exceeded all the impressions that only made pianists envy-inducing in Brahms.

Zarra Bildstein, a Russian music lover, told Licad after the concert: "I enjoyed the concert very much. It was awesome! You played wonderfully and I heard people from the audience say that as well."

Licad said it was also the first time she set foot in the historic Tchaikovsky Hall where the likes of Otto Klemperer, Artur Rubenstein, Sasha Sirolen, Marian Anderson, Artur Rodzinski, Bela Bartok, Zubin Dymitrik and Emil Gilels have performed earlier.

"The Tchaikovsky Hall was simply incomparable when it comes to the sound," Licad said. "The hall had something an artist can ask for. The organizers can rave about you and the musicians rave just learn every note of the music but they have a superior way of projecting the sound the best that you can think of. Their music-making is not just sheer power. They care a lot about the quality of sound. For this reason, the Moscow concert is simply heaven-sent."

Second team-up

The April 15 engagement was actually her second team-up with Gorenstein, considered one of the most famous and cherished pianist-conductors in contemporary music. Gorenstein's name is closely associated with traditions of the Russian conductor's school...brilliant performance, depth and innovativeness of interpretation, diligent technique and strong personality.

Licad had three rehearsals with the orchestra and the five encounters with the orchestra manned her when the conductor asked her, "Do you still remember this?"

It seemed not conductor Gorenstein also conducted her when she made her heart debut in 3rd Asia some 29 years ago—as soloist in Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2.

"There was some slight run-up in that heart engagement," Licad recalled. "The conductor was informed I was playing Chopin No. 1 but I was ready for Chopin No. 2. Some weeks before her concert discovery, that Licad concert turned out very well with the conductors learning the piece only in the first two rehearsals."

Maestro's credentials

Herbert Licad, Gorenstein had worked with such distinguished soloists as violinist Viktor Tretyakov, cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, pianists Nikolai Petrov, Boris Matveev, Lazar Berman and singers Elena Obraztsova, Nikolai Gedda, Angela Gheorghiu and Kathleen Battle, among others.

Of Gorenstein's credentials, Steve Smith of the New York Times had written: "The best measure of [Gorenstein's] touch came in an urgent, intensely shaded account of Barber's Concerto for Orchestra. Beginning as a whisper, the violins rose in a magnificently throaty sound. Woodwinds were shrill, and brasses took on a warm glow. It would be hard to imagine a more pleasantly musical rendition of the closing pages in the Grieco Delle Tappie, or a more dramatic introduction to the Elegia."

"ENGAGEMENT OF A LIFETIME" Pianist Cecile Licad acknowledges the (Traditional) rhythmic applause by the "music-obsessed" Russian audience at curtain call with the Russian State Symphony Orchestra.

Before her Russian debut, Vice-President Jejomar Binay had congratulated Licad on her Russian debut saying she remains a big inspiration for Filipino musicians all over the world.

Founded in 1936, the Russian State Symphony Orchestra had been led by some of the finest conductors and composers to music history notably Igor Stravinsky, Konstantin Ivanov, Evgeniy Svetlanov, Gina Khmelnitsky, Erich Kleiber, Nikolai Malko, Charles Munch, Mstislav Rostropovich, Kurt Masur and Valery Gergiev, among others.

Royal wedding . . .

From page A1

and colleagues are raised in much as Prince Albert of Monaco.

The middle-class bride has packed the pews of Westminster Abbey with ordinary people, reportedly including the butcher, the postman and the greengrocer from the local English village of Bucklebury where she grew up.

The names of the 1,900 guests have not been officially released, but the list is also thought to include a yoga teacher and a bus-mate from the Caribbean island of Mustique, where Kate's parents have spent many happy holidays.

William meanwhile has invited dozens of colleagues from his service as a search and rescue helicopter pilot, as well as staff from Buckingham Palace support.

Front rows

The bishop's front rows are reserved for William's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, her father Prince Charles and his brother Prince Harry, as well as the bride's parents Carole and Michael and her siblings, Pippa and James.

From there, the seating arrangements become more difficult.

Where to put Earl Charles Spencer, the brother of William's late mother Diana, who delivered an emotional speech at her funeral in 1997 rebuking the royal family for how they treated her?

No Fergie

And what about Kate's uncle Gary Goldsmith, who has made headlines for his behavior with Boys?

Fortunately for the planners, Williams aunt Sarah Ferguson was not invited. She has struggled with alcohol and was caught in a newspaper sting last year apparently trying to sell access to her ex-husband Prince Andrew.

Some invited guests will not attend including Japan's emperor Akihito, whose country has been devastated by an earthquake and the king of Bahrain, who reportedly withdrew to avoid embarrassment after a crackdown on protesters.

There will be enough stars to keep the press happy, however.

Footballer David Beckham has confirmed he will be attending with his wife Victoria, after he and William teamed up to promote England's doomed bid for the 2018 World Cup last year.

Pop superstar Madonna's ex-husband, director Guy Ritchie, as well as the British comic actor Rowan Atkinson are also reportedly among those invited.

Obama not invited

Prime Minister David Cameron will also be among about 200 politicians, governors and diplomats attending from around the world, although US President Barack Obama is not invited, as it is not a formal state occasion.

Every ambassador to London is invited, including North Korea's, except the envoy for Libya, which Britain and other countries have been boycotting in recent weeks to enforce a UN resolution to protect civilians from Gaddafi's fighting.

"That invitation has not been sent yet," said a Foreign Office spokesperson, adding that unless Moammar Gadhafi's regime fell, "it is unlikely it will be."

Just to add to the mix, the ex-girlfriends and ex-boyfriend of the couple have also enjoyed a rowdy bash on the list.

William and Kate have exhibited shown the members for the wedding reception, however, inviting only 600 people to Buckingham Palace for lunch time. The evening party, meanwhile, will be attended by a select group of 300. AFP

P1.3-B vets office here, only facility outside US

From page A1

one roof what had been separate claims and health services departments," the DVA started service in Manila in 1411.

Secrets of success

The P1.3-billion facility, the only VA facility outside the United States, is manned by an all-Filipino staff of 230 doctors, nurses, medical technicians, and administrative personnel supporting eight American supervisors.

"It's no different from the rest of the embassy facilities—and we mean it better it says either way—but Philippine nationals to do a great deal of the work at the embassies," Shelby told the reporters.

"We have such high-quality employees. They're as well-trained, as well-educated, [if not more...they speak a great English]—a lot of our patients are English-speaking—and so we find get really qualified individuals for our jobs here," he said.

"That's why I think [that's] one of the secrets of our success."

Warriors from everywhere

US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas, Jr. he finally inaugurated the new building on April 13, some three months since it started operations.

The facility manages and oversees the monthly release of $3.6 million (at least P700 million) in benefits to some 15,000 claimants in the Philippines, among them US and Filipino-American service-members World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, VA-led wars in the Middle East and peace-time service, Shelby said.

That is on top of some P9.3 billion the DVA has paid some 16,100 Filipino World War II veterans since the US granted lump-sum claims in February 2009. DVA could be hearing appeals on denied claims for one of the initial 41,000 claims filed, Shelby said.

"One of the great things about this move is that all of our staff now are in one place," he said. "It's a one-stop shop for the veterans. So when they come to us, they can see their doctor, they can file claims for disabilities or education benefits all in one place."

Heart of the operations

Before, veterans had to shuttle between the DVA claims office in Manila and the outpatient clinic near the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City.

"We had to actually have to drive those [veterans' medical records] from one office to the clinic so doctors could take a look. Now, on campus, could bring the records [from the second floor] down to the doctor [on the ground floor]," Shelby said.

At the heart of the DVA operations is its state-of-the-art outpatient clinic, which offers 17 specialized services aimed at veterans' needs: from heart checkups and diabetes treatment to treatment of war injuries, from prosthetics to post-traumatic stress counseling.

Before her Russian debut, Vice-President Jejomar Binay had congratulated Licad on her Russian debut saying she remains a big inspiration for Filipino musicians all over the world.

Founded in 1936, the Russian State Symphony Orchestra had been led by some of the finest

"Many of our new patients today are young, those who spent time in Afghanistan, Iraq. With that comes new debilitating diseases, such as traumatic head injuries," said Dennis Brink, DVA Manila clinic manager.

The clinic also deals with the treatment and rehabilitation of veterans with stunning injuries, said Brink, also a US army veteran.

Only one

"In World War II, a lot of the guys who had lost their legs died in the field because they bled to death," Brink said. "Now, with medicine breakthroughs, we've gotten so much that those things are being taken care of in the field. So they're coming back and we're treating those injuries. It's very unique to our patients."

The DVA clinic has a top-of-the-line radiology unit that delivers X-ray results in five minutes.

Its medical laboratory is the only one in the Philippines accredited by the College of American Pathologists, undergoing regular checks for compliance with US laboratory standards.

The lab's $1 million immunochemistry analyzer could process and analyze up to 1,200 biological samples an hour, said its chief medical technician, Maria Agnes Abaya.

Electronic delivery

All medical results are provided electronically to veterans for ease in reference when they receive outside another DVA facility.

"What's nice about it is they get their results [immediately], not only in paper copy but also in electronic medical records, which they can take wherever they go," Shelby said. "So they can take those in another VA facility to the US, pull it up and all their lab results are there."

DVA staff receives regular training by the US embassy in the Manila office to upgrade their skills and learn the operation of critical medical equipment.

"Because of the kind of work we do here, there's a great deal of emphasis on training our personnel to make sure that they're doing the best job they can do and we're giving them all the right tools," Shelby said.

All for free

Shelby reminded veterans and their families that DVA Manila services are free and that listing claims agents are not at all necessary. He cited cases when Bacos were found living fraudulent claims documents to the US. DVA considered a crime under Philippine law.

"We have lots of difficulties with people employing people who don't have their best interests in mind and maybe attempting to submit fraudulent documents," Shelby said.

"I want people to know that our services are free, and you don't have to hire anyone to help you. Our job is to make sure everybody gets their benefits legally, whatever they are legally entitled to."

ONE-STOP SHOP US Veterans Affairs Manila Director Joe Shelby shows the library which contains 65,000 case folders of veterans' records.

RESULTS IN 5 MINUTES X-ray technician Orlando Regio shows off the top-of-the-line radiology unit at the US Veterans Affairs office in Pasay City.

'Busong,' a tale of Palawan, is headed to Cannes

By Robert V. Hayades
Los Angeles correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"Busong (Pots)," part of an trilogy that filmmaker Mes Arriola is planning on Palawan, is off to a good initial start. The second film of the trilogy, "Ang Paglalakbay ni Ulo (The Homecoming of Madame Oliveros)" has been selected for the Directors' Fortnight of the Cannes Film Festival next month.

"My hands were cold," Arriola told us via e-mail of the moment he learned "Busong" was included so often in readers' polls as the year's most prestigious film festival. "It was such a big surprise. I was expecting the decision to come two weeks later; the submission deadline on a Monday and just the news by Thursday. I ran to my room screaming and jumping. I originally let the good news [the way we are happy and thanked God. It was one of the happiest moments of my life."

It's a decent score nine for the director whose other films include "Philippines 2," "Serbis," "Todo Todo," "Boy" and "Tuff" (Filipino for menstruation). Arriola is modest, "In my youth, when Lino Brocka became the first Filipino who made it to Cannes through the Directors' Fortnight with his film "Insiang," I was so proud of him—one I take to this moment. Now my sweet dream has been realized. Cannes is every filmmaker's dream."

Directors who made it

Aside from the late Brocka, the Directors' Fortnight has also featured over the years the work of Raymond "Jeanne" Mercado, Mario Mariles, Mario O'Hara and Mike de Leon. This exclusivity of the films both had and also held the first French screenings of the debut works of such filmmakers as Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Jeffrie Lee, Weenie Wenceslao and Rainer Morales' Insaniados.

"Busong" was inspired by movie-buffet's mother told Palawan about her native Palawano culture he was a child. In an earlier interview, he explained that "Busong" is the indigenous Palawanon concept of how or human beings. "What you do in this life, you do it to yourself," he said. "Busong" is not to promote any Palawan value the other two planned films will tackle the palawanon perspective part, "Sabyan (Deluge)," and Inman, "Kandong (Night)." "Busong" itself is conceived of three segments: "Bonan," "Isa" and "Kinsam."

The grateful was shared that Leonardo joined hard for "Busong," to make it to Cannes. "She said I swear at the St. Jude Chapel that afternoon, praying for me. Yes," Arriola said. "It's so strong, so true in. There are still minutes in our production."

"We had a mini celebration," said the filmmaker who first made a splash internationally in 1998 when "...Minsan Umiyot" was nominated for the grand jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival. "We invited some key people and close friends. My families was rolling overseas. I really love those words from Palawan since he was a kid." (he was a priest) What was fascinating was, she only realized in the end that the character Pinoy was played by Mercedes de Perez. She told me that she was rooting for Ada and Ada made sacrament to appear in the film. It proves that Ada really became the character."

Cast and crew

Arriola ended off the names of the cast and crew that he hopes will be able to join him when "Busong" premieres in the Croisette. Among the cast, Alexander de Rossi, Clifford Imbuglo, Ina Alejandro and Palaweña newcomer Bernie Bedro. Also who Alfred Vargas is also in the cast of the film through his new film company Alternative Films Circuit, out co-produced from Kongo Studios, editor Chuck Gutierrez and his wife Bella Ruth Villanueva, are from the Arts Production department and the film's executive producer Paul Ted Salbarrosa; a group from the 16 headed by executive producer Jong de Castro and co-producer Beatrix Lorica; and co-writer Henri Burgos.

Jeremy Segay, Cannes programmer, told Bobby he "will be happy for a few days, but you will realize that it's hard work the next few weeks." The director concurred, saying, "The euphoria lasted for a few days. Now we are back at our desk doing some finishing touches (what we submitted was a rough cut), looking for additional financing for the technical work to send Cannes standards. Digital Cinema Package and Network subtitling/aural cuttings for cut and outs so they could travel with us to Cannes."

No rush to deadline

Arriola said that there was no need rush to meet the submission deadline. "I have a habitual editor, Chuck," he said. "I was expecting that we would go 24/7 but his cut points were just so precise and learned me. Chuck chose some cuts that he did not even think of and they were better than what I was thinking of. I had a great time working with Jaya. Its editing was done in just a few days. Chuck de Leon, who did the sound and design and soundtrack, just had the time of to do the job. And yet he did a very responsible first mix. It was a great creative team. We just had enough time to meet the deadline."

Another Pinoy film fails to make Cannes deadline

By Rayant San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

NOW IT can be told.

There could have been two filipino films in this year's Cannes.

As announced—by April 19, Antoinette Jadaone's "Busong (Pots)," made it as one of the selected films in the Directors' Fortnight of the Cannes International Film Festival, set in France this coming May.

The other Filipino film in the running for Cannes was Raffiedo Mendoza's "Sinag" (formerly "Prey"), which's top-billed French actress Isabelle Huppert and Filipino actors Nonoy Lauzon, Jiel Lauzon, Raymond Bagatsing, Angel Aquino, among others.

Jadaone and Mendoza were among the honorees in the first leg of quiet lolo Tribute.

Mendoza, who won Best Director at Cannes in 2009 for "Kinatay," was especially a favorite for the Main Competition.

When the Cannes lineup announced last week, Mendoza's name was conspicuously absent.

Mendoza explained that his film was unfinished and couldn't have made the Cannes deadline. "In spite of an extension [of the deadline], we still have to go to Paris, France, for the film's post-production effect Holy Week."

Mendoza said he would submit his new entry after finishing the film in Paris.

"Sinag," which recounts the hostage-taking of Filipino and foreigners by bandits, was originally three and half hours long, but Mendoza cuts it down to two hours and 15 minutes. "We are leaving today (Wednesday) for Paris to edit and finalize the sound and music."

In the meantime, Solito's "Busong," set many in the Directors' Fortnight's section of Cannes Classics, is off to the Berlinale, which featured Mendoza's "Foster Child" in 2007.

Laurice Guillen, Cinemalaya's competition director, sees an entry's event if "Busong" premieres in France in May—"we consider it for the local digital festival's cut in July.

"From the beginning of Cinemalaya, we have always made an exception for Cannes since it provides us in the festival calendar," Guillen pointed out. "It is a very opportune slot for the filmmaker."

Meralco service at work.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011

CAVITE

BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MUNTI 0163 AND 0602

REASON: Preventive maintenance and cutting work under Meralco Reforestation Program. Feeding Circuit

CALOOCAN CITY BULACAN CITY AND VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 8:00PM AND 12:00MIDNIGHT - PORTION OF CIRCUIT KATIPUNAN 12138

REASON: Preventive maintenance and cutting work under Meralco Reforestation Program. Feeding Circuit

PARANAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 12:00MIDNIGHT - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PARANAQUE 1422

REASON: Replacement of broken pole and installation of new pole along Sucat Road in Brgy. San Dionisio, Paranaque City.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011

PASAY CITY

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CEP 14.4kV

GUIGUINTO (BARANGAYAS AND GEN. TRIAS)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 12:00NOON AND THEN BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ABREEZI 4kV

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 - 27, 2011

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 12:00NOON - ALEXIS AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 5:00AM (FRI. 04/27/11) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LAGUNDI 4kV

REASON: Replacement of broken pole and installation of new pole along 10th Ave. in Brgy. San Roque, Quezon City.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011

PASAY CITY

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CEP 14.4kV

QUEZON PROVINCE (LUCENA CITY)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAMAKA 13kV

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole and installation of recloser/pole along Diversion Road in Brgy. Bukang Liwayway, Lucena City, Quezon Province.

PASIG CITY

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PASIG 4kV

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and installation of recloser/pole along Kalayaan Avenue in Brgy. Rosario, Pasig City.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

PASIG CITY

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 12:00NOON AND THEN BETWEEN 2:00AM AND 5:00AM (FRI. 04/29/11) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANTIPOLO 4kV

REASON: Maintenance work along Pond Area and Riverside Road, in Kaunlaran Resettlement Area, Pasig City.

GAVITE

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 5:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ROSARIO 4kV

REASON: Maintenance work along Pond Area and Riverside Road, in Kaunlaran Resettlement Area, Pasig City.

MANILA, MANDALUYONG CITY AND QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS PANDACAN 1138, 1139, 1140 AND 1141, 0612 4kV

REASON: Preventive maintenance and feeding work under NAIA Terminal 3 Expansion.

MANILA, MANDALUYONG CITY AND QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS PANDACAN 1138, 1139, 1140 AND 1141, 0612 4kV

REASON: Preventive maintenance and feeding work under NAIA Terminal 3 Expansion.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, APRIL 28 - 29, 2011

QUEZON PROVINCE (TAYABAS)

BETWEEN 10:00PM (THU., 04/28/11) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 04/29/11) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 4kV AND 0631 4kV

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by DPWH bridge construction along Tayabas - Lucban Provincial Road in Brgy. Camaysa, Tayabas, Quezon Province.

CALOOCAN CITY QUEZON CITY AND VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 12:00MIDNIGHT - PORTION OF CIRCUIT KATIPUNAN 12138

REASON: Preventive maintenance and cutting work under Meralco Reforestation Program. Feeding Circuit

PARANAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 12:00MIDNIGHT - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PARANAQUE 1422

REASON: Replacement of broken pole and installation of new pole along Sucat Road in Brgy. San Dionisio, Paranaque City.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

MARIKINA CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MRU 13kV

REASON: Preventive maintenance and cutting work under Meralco Reforestation Program. Feeding Circuit

MULAUAN (CALUMPIT, HAGONOY AND PAOMBONG)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CALUMPIT 4kV

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco Concept Substation.

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011

MANILA

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS PANDACAN 1138, 1139, 1140 AND 1141, 0612 4kV AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TONDO 14kV

REASON: Preventive maintenance and feeding work under NAIA Terminal 3 Expansion.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TONDO 0104 - MILLETE 4kV, TONDO 0105 - STA. ANA 4kV AND TONDO 0106

REASON: Relocation of facilities along Tandang Sora Ave. in Pasay, Manila.

For your safety, avoid getting near electric lines.
We care about you and everything.

MERALCO

American Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Workers demand ₱100 daily pay hike

By Jhonren Nagalkan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The country's biggest labor group is demanding a ₱100 across-the-board increase in daily wages for workers in Central Visayas.

The Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) said its increasing wages was needed to help workers cope with rising costs of fuel, rice and basic commodities.

"The ₱100 daily increase is essential if workers are to cope with the increasing prices of commodities and cost of living. If they are to meet the basic needs of the families, even if only partially, and if the country is to give meaning and substance to the policy of equitable distribution of income and wealth," said the group's wage petition.

The five-page petition, signed by ALU-TUCP national president Democrito Mendoza, was filed at the regional tripartite wages and productivity board in Central Visayas on Tuesday.

The petition said the wage increase should be across-the-board and not benefit only those receiving minimum wages since everyone suffers from the rising costs of basic commodities and fuel.

The ALU-TUCP also said workers in Central Visayas receive lower daily minimum wage rates of ₱285 compared to ₱327 being received by workers from the Caraballoan where the two regions have the same per capita income.

The labor group said a wage increase would also restore the workers' purchasing power and improve their standard of living.

Ferdinand Lumapas, ALU-TUCP Central Visayas chief for recruitment management and service division, said his group hoped the wage hike would not be the last petition on Labor Day.

But Regional Secretary Lumapas said the board would have to convene after the July Fourth to assess the impact of the latest round of oil price increases on workers' incomes.

The regional wage board may not wait to assess if so-called supervising establishments that acquired wage increases ranging from P10 to P15 per day last year since the board approved a wage increase in September 2013.

Wage boards are not allowed to adjust salaries for a year after the last increase unless they declare the existence of "supervening" conditions that require wage increases.

President Aquino has ordered officials to study ways to soften the impact of coal-causing price increases on the people.

But Vice President Jejomar Binay said enforcing value addition is exclusively in the solution.

"It could be a big revenue loss for the government," said Binay, former mayor of Makati City, probably the country's richest local government unit.

He said he hoped oil price would start to go down in earnest.

With a report by Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Trader faces raps for gun threats against Tacloban mayor

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A businessman is facing charges for allegedly threatening Tacloban Mayor Alfredo Romualdez.

The city prosecutor's office charged to the Regional Trial Court the complaint of grave threats, instead of direct assault of person in authority and attempted murder that was originally filed by Romualdez against businessman Brad Tan.

In a two-page resolution, Assistant City Prosecutor Fernando Rojas said that there was probable cause to indict Tan before the court under a section of the Revised Penal Code.

"The complaint of attempted murder and direct assault were considered to be dismissed under grave threats," said Rojas in the resolution.

Even before the case could be raffled off to an RTC judge, Tan, 34, posted a bail of ₱20,000 on Thursday.

His lawyer, Ted Ala, said there was no evidence against his client.

Ala said there was no evidence to put down his client.

Tan, he added, was merely following up his applications for a business permit, which was later denied.

Court records said Tan went to the mayor's office about 11 a.m. on April 15 to follow up his application for business permit to operate a gas store. He allegedly was heard threatening to shoot the mayor if his permit was not issued.

"If you don't release my business permit, I will shoot your mayor's head off," Tan was said to allegedly told the mayor's staff.

An aide of the mayor trailed Tan and seized a gun from the businessman.

The latter said he wanted to make sure Tan had no questionable background because he was applying for a permit to sell guns.

LENTEN FEST
This place honoring life-size sculptures of the Stations of the Cross in Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City is becoming a favorite destination for pilgrims.
CARLOS CRISOSTOMO

Evelio Javier a hero, Marcos is not, says former senator

By Carla Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—If there was anyone who deserved to be buried as a hero, it wasn't the late Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., but Evelio Javier, who was murdered at the height of Marcos' reign of terror for supporting the late President Corazon Aquino's fight against the dictatorship.

Former Sen. Jovito Salonga said on Tuesday said he found it ironic that legislators and government officials were even considering the thought of burying Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani and failed to see that the same honor was denied Javier, who is considered a martyr for democracy's return after more than 20 years of one-man rule.

Javier is buried in San Jose, Buenavista in Antique province.

Marcos admirers

Gumaba, now a resident of Silay City, Negros Occidental, was reacting to statements attributed to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Alfredo Abelardo Benitez (Negros Occidental, third district) saying they agreed with proposals to have Marcos buried as a hero at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, a burial ground for war heroes and soldiers in Fort Bonifacio.

Marcos died in exile in Hawaii on September 1989. His remains have been in the capital city in a mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

In an earlier interview, Benitez said Marcos should be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani since he was a World War II hero. Marcos' supposed heroism during World War II was exposed after pieces of information surfaced alleging that his war medals were fake and he supposed wartime exploits were fabrications.

Trillanes said if Angelo Reyes, former defense secretary and Armed Forces chief of staff who committed suicide amid accusations of corruption, was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayan, there was no reason for Marcos not to be accorded that honor as well.

"To be consistent we should allow the former president to be buried there," Trillanes was quoted in saying.

Irony

But Gumaba, a staunch supporter of Marcos, said it was ironic that it would be possible to accord Marcos the honor of a hero's burial after what he did in his 20-year reign.

If there was any body who deserved a hero's burial more, Gumaba said, it would be Javier.

"His martyrdom and funeral were one of the events that led to false people power revolution," said Gumaba.

Javier was assassinated on Feb. 11, 1980 as he campaigned for Sen. Aquino's senatorial bid. Aquino was also murdered in exile after he returned to the country to lead the opposition against the Marcos regime.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, who has defended victims of Marcos' martial law regime as a human rights violations victim, disagreed in charge of the issue. With a report by Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Expressway stores told to stop selling liquor

CORRECTED Balintawak—Officials of the North Luzon Expressway have called on motorists at service and commercial areas, the entry and exit points of the 84-km highway to stop selling liquor to truck drivers and motorists to prevent accidents, especially during the Holy Week break when thousands of motorists troop to the provinces.

Rosalyn Tolibas, entire manager for corporate communications of the NLEX operator, Subways Management Corp. (TMC), urged caretakers even to erase the expressway's Duma-ginog and Balintawak exits to stop serving alcoholic beverages to drivers to reduce the number of accidents that occur there due to the holiday rush.

TMC officials also made a similar appeal to owners of food stalls and restaurants near the Balintawak toll exit in Quezon City, where truck drivers park and rest before a long drive to central and northern Luzon, Tolibas said.

He said most accidents on NLEX have been attributed to truck drivers, many of them of trucks.

Mayor Amy Pelejo of Gamu-la, Isabela, said the six villages there along NLEX prohibit drivers who have consumed alcohol from disembarking at their toll gates.

Gamu-la Toll says Cmdr. (MBTC) vice president, said checkpoints and calculations topped the 10 major causes of accidents on NLEX, citing data from experts prepared by the Philippine National Police, MMTC and TMC.

Drivers who eat while driving or who use their mobile phones also count among the causes of accidents, Ochoa said. Cayetano Rosario Enrique, Inquirer Central Luzon

Visitors advised Baguio ideal for spiritual retreats

BAGUIO CITY—Bishop Carlo Caccia said tourists should treat the summer capital as not only a place where they can spend their vacation but also for their spiritual revival.

"Please dress properly when you come to church. Don't wear shorts or sleeveless shirts. Do not bring those who observe a holy atmosphere and don't believe like you're going to the beach," Caccia said.

He said he would not like to see people who they should wear but by dressing properly they could draw us away from the church.

"What I mean is more inspire us than what to wear, we can only tell them to wear what is appropriate when they enter the church," he said.

Caccia said Holy Week, for many people, has become "one part religious and one part recollecting."

"It has also become a time for summers and weeks" he said.

Officials of the Department of Tourism in the Cordillera requested hotels, inns and pension houses to be booked this week.

Benedicto Allandero, one tourism official, said the city is expecting to receive 300,000 tourists by the end of May.

Caccia said tourists tend to be careless when they are visiting the cathedral compound, forgetting that they leave their garbage anywhere.

He said the Cathedral Church is also addressing how people enter to be granted the observance of Lent by ignoring religious rituals and practices like fasting and abstinence.

"The solemn observance of the 40-day Lenten season—where people pray and fast—is gone ... before people would abstain from eating meat because it is the Lenten season. But fasting entails selling meat instead during the Holy Week," he said.

He asked tourists and residents to walk around the city as a form of sacrifice, urging them to avoid using their cars to lessen vehicle pollution.

The city government will close downtown streets from Burnham Park to motorists on Good Friday and Black Saturday to allow visitors to walk around the business district, said Isabelo Bautista Jr., head, development of the Baguio police.

In Dangwatan, Fr. Oliver Mendoza, parish priest of San Felipe Neri, urged the Catholic faithful to visit small churches so they can have a quiet and reflective time during the holy week. Yeni Ignacio.

THE SUMMER capital draws tourists during Holy Week, but the destination need not leave hectic behind, like the Baguio Cathedral, have opened their doors during the solemn Christian period.
EARL DOMINIC OJENTRON

HOMETOWN
Sagada

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Makeover for church in Daraga

By Mar S. Arguelles
Daraga, Albay

CHURCH devotees who go on "Visita Iglesia" (traditional church visitations) during the Holy Week have been awed by the newly restored facade of the centuries-old Nuestra Señora de la Porteria (Our Lady of the Gate) in Daraga town in Albay.

The 276-century church built on top of Santa Maria Hill overlooks the slopes of Mount Mayon, according to architects of the National Museum, to its credit had to undergo restoration because of its badly deteriorating state brought about by age.

People visiting the church have been wondering why the facade was painted white—oblivious to the Old World look that had long been admired.

Angel Bautista, chief of the cultural properties division of the National Museum, said how nothing continuing chemical intervention is being done while restoring and preserving the structural image.

Bautista said the Nuestra Señora de la Porteria, which was built 228 years ago, had been exposed to the rain and time, which eroded the facade's earlier structural design.

The application of lime coating is guaranteed to restore the original chemical image of the church, as was proven to have been done in other countries with historical landmarks, he said.

He stressed parishioners that in a year's time, they would see the church as its original form as the protective coat would enhance and preserve the structure.

LIME coating containing chemical ingredients over the facade of the Nuestra Señora de la Porteria (Our Lady of the Gate) in Daraga, Albay, is white, while restoring and protecting the structural image of the church.

National treasure

Fr. Jose Victor Labrigo, Daraga parish priest, said the restoration work was done in coordination with and approved of the National Museum, National Historical Institute (NHI) and the National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA).

Consultations were also made with parishioners, the municipal mayor, and Bishop Joel Baylon of the Diocese of Legazpi.

Labrigo said the restoration process came in two phases. The first was the structural survey made in 2006 by the three cultural agencies. During the implementation phase, the NCCA gave over P6 million in funding, with counterpart amounts from the parish and municipality.

In 2007, the National Museum declared the parish church of Our Nuestra Señora de la Porteria (Our Lady of Gate) a national cultural treasure. Specifically, it cited its exterior and western facades, bell tower and baptistry.

Across the country, 52 churches have been declared national cultural treasures. The Daraga church shares the distinction with the San Juan Bautista Church in Tobaco City, whose belfry tower stands with economically marked with "tisiran."

The National Museum described the Daraga church, which was built in 1773 by the Franciscan missionaries, as a grandiose, edifice. The rich baroque architectural design on the facade—once carefully covered in volcanic rocks, giving the church a special distinction from other places of worship in the country.

The church contains architectural finds of "tisiran" (stucco) and rare religious molds engraved throughout its entire face.

Experts and historians believe that the church must be preserved and protected to encompass its cultural prosperity.

Another national treasure in Albay is the "Shell Specter," a unique sculpted bust of Cagsawa Ruins in Daraga town. The sculpture is displayed in the National Museum in Manila.

MORIONES FESTIVAL

Marinduque folk tell pols: Keep off rites

By Gerald Gene B. Quevedo
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BOAC, Marinduque—Residents of this island province, who consider it the country's Lenten capital, urged local officials to spare the seven-year-old Moriones festival from politics.

The growing sentiment against a politicized Moriones festival became evident when Morion groups and local residents learned that there were three "Battles of the Morions" scheduled on the same date and time but in two different towns.

Political

One is to be held in the capital town of Boac and organized by the provincial government under the governor, Carmencita Reyes.

The other will be held in Santa in Gasi and is organized by Chris Montenegro and the latter's agency the Department of Philippines-Marinduque chapter and Marinduque's four congressmen. Local Allan Velasco, son of ex-Supreme Court justice.

Reyes and Velasco have announced postponed such ceremonies even if both have allied with President Aquino. In the 2010 elections, Reyes ran under the Bigkis Pwersa while Velasco ran under the Liberal banner.

Now only on its third year, the "Battle of the Morions," which is held annually every Holy Thursday on 3 p.m., is the newest attraction of the festival. It was initiated by Velasco during the 2009 festival.

In this context, various Morion groups complain against each other in terms of choreographed movements, marching drills, sword and spear drills and military formations in the form of presentations in competitions, just like what the Roman soldiers did.

Participants with the best Morion costumes and masks and the best performing Morion groups receive cash prizes.

Divided

Raymund Magsumbol, one of the founders of the Legion of the Morions group in Boac, said local government units and private groups should have their activities coordinated with the provincial government that would set as the main organizer.

He said there are only five Morion groups that join the battle every year. With two simultaneous battles, he said, the Morion groups would be further divided.

Reggie Leboc, a former Morion, in a discussion on the topic on Facebook, asked why the festival couldn't do itself a favor.

"We become Morions before we are evil penance and not because there were politicians or priest encouraging us," he said.

Ken Evangelista Antonino, a tourist and culture and arts professor of the Marinduque State College (MSC), said, however, that having two battles of the Morions is good for the province's tourism industry.

"Investments and more activities means more tourists for the province," he said.

Biggest town

He suggested, however, that as organizers, the provincial government should give only to the other group because it is the first time that a Morion activity of such proportion will be held in Santa Cruz, the biggest town of the province.

All Morion groups will be able to join the two "battles" if their are held on separate dates, he explained.

Local residents, nongovernment organizations and private groups and individuals have joined the chance for a private group or franchisee to organize and manage the Moriones festival.

Sloan Evasco, a former municipal councilor of Boac, said if this happens, politicians could not manipulate the Moriones for their own personal gains.

The socalled renowned festival was once a crowd drawer for domestic and foreign tourists but it faced dwindling tourist attendance because the activities remained the same made years.

Goodwill, praises keep going the way of newspaper vendor

By Dodo T. Mabini Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Local newspaper vendor Carlos Antolo, who does his daily rounds in a trademark cart and ride aboard a rickety and rusty bicycle, continued to reap honor, praise and material benefits from his growing number of fans for his admirable work ethic.

From a single coin, which was donated to him by one of his customers, Antolo said he now owns three cents given to him by admirers who send him one or the other.

"After I delivered their newspapers, some of my customers just handed me packages. Some of them contained coats, trousers and long sleeve polos. I can't believe it," he told the Inquirer as an interview along the side of the Maharlika Highway here on Friday.

Eye protection

He wears a black coat with medals and a long sleeve polo and black pants.

"A customer also gave me sunglasses to protect my eyes from dust and summer heat," he added.

Since then, Antolo said, he received a new bicycle from city councilor Williams Nocha.

The latter also sponsored a condition accepting thanks for showing solidarity to not a mere coat of presents, but kind work.

Two councilors, however, raised objections. One of whom has questioned the newsvendor's being supervised from his wife and family. But Antolo did not mind for he said he was just doing his work and was not asking for any recognition.

He was grateful. Answers for

NEW CELEBRITY newspaper vendor Carlos Antolo prepares to go to work in a new luxurious three-cab and is now hitch-ride given by people touched by his story

the new bike for his old one has had countless trips to the welding shop. He said "I will never forget Nocha."

Girl's request

Other newspaper vendors have asked how they would be of help to Antolo.

"My little girl was egging me to Find him. She wants to meet him in person. She orders me to regularly buy newspaper from him to help him," a broker told the Inquirer.

Despite the attention he has been getting since becoming news headwill, Antolo continues to donate his time by engaged with his family.

> After I delivered their newspapers, some of my customers just handed me packages... I can't believe it'

A high school graduate, Antolo said he used to be a security guard assigned to various places in Southern Tagalog when his wife Leyvonnette left him and brought along their children Marion and Jayo Chenelle. He said he has yet to receive word from them.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Triumph over death

EDITORIAL

UNTIMELY DEATHS can shake our sense of certainty and put our belief systems to the test. To many people, for instance, the death of the young actor AJ Perez early on Palm Sunday was shocking precisely because it upended our assumptions: He was only 18, steadily earning a reputation as hard-working and kindhearted, and on the cusp of what seemed to be a most promising career. We do not expect a young man like him, vital, impressed with the future, to be suddenly spoken of in the past tense.

This form of expectation is not mere sentimentality. It is backed by the laws of statistics [and indeed actuarial science can calculate to an unnerving degree our life expectancies, if not yet our life's expectations]. It is confirmed by daily practice, in schools and businesses, in both private sector and public: New employees are hired, trade promotions are launched, universal safety nets like social security are woven based on the assumption that the young, the newly employed, the newest contributors to cooperative insurance schemes will outlive the older members of society.

That a mere accident, such as the collision on a highway in Tarlac that claimed Perez's life, can betray that expectation in a searing flash—this is the source of our shock and our anxiety.

To be sure, folk wisdom warns us that the good do die young. The saying about "*mamatong diaros*" [perhaps best translated as solid grass, the term refers to the wicked] and about the wicked outlasting the virtuous is frequently invoked, and often in the context of scoundrel: Look at all those incredibly long-lived politicians with a long history of public sins, we exclaim.

Some perspective about the magnifying effect of the media glare should also alert us to the reality that every single day, young people pass away, for from tuberculosis to dengue. We do not hear of them, we do not know them, but they may have been as full of vitality and promise, as loved by their family and circle of friends, as the late AJ Perez. They died so they lived, in obscurity.

We realize sooner or later that, in truth, death follows its own science. Some die before their time [in the limits of language allow us to phrase it]. Some live to a ripe old age. Some die in the prime of life. The only constant certainty is: Death comes for us all.

In the Christian faith, this implacable fact is not [or no longer ought to be] a source of anxiety, of existential worry. Christ, the founder of that faith, has conquered death, and Holy Thursday marks the beginning of that eternal conquest.

In the Christian tradition, Holy Thursday is unlike most other feast days in that it marks not one religious milestone but two. It celebrates the institution of the priesthood, and in that sense it is the anniversary of all priests. And it celebrates the institution of the Eucharist, the Christian sacrament that directly unites believers with Christ, the object of their belief.

But Holy Thursday is also the first day of the Christian faith's most important triduum, the three-day period which marks Christ's Passion. Its stewards of loyal love (the legacies Christ left behind) and its loyalty-spouting assistors (Judas' betrayal) prepare us for Good Friday—the day Christians remember as the actual conquest of death. And after the astonishing silence of Black Saturday, Christians celebrate the real *ad die* the triduum with Easter, the feast of Christ's return from the dead.

How is death's conquest accomplished? And what does conquest mean in the first place? In the Christian faith, death is conquered not by ending it [every living thing must still meet its end, that is only the law of nature], but by giving meaning to it. That Christian meaning is, in a word, freedom. Christ's conquest of death has freed all souls, has broken sin's heavy chains. In other words, if we believe that the youthful and the virtuous dead deserve heaven, the Christian faith allows us not only to give expression to our conviction, but also to deepest reality.

"O death, where is thy sting?"

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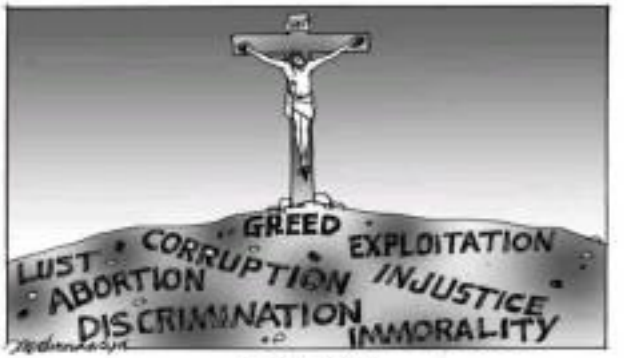


Light riders

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

NO ALL feel a need, as a certain point in our lives, to share our blessings with others. Philosophers sometimes call it the obligation of solidarity. But you may also have drawn on from asking the first step. One is the thought that whatever we do for others, our efforts is but a drop in the bucket. We don't change anything. The other is the fact that the small initiatives are taken or lighten the burden of others usually only mask the urgent need for enduring social reforms. These apprehensions are not without basis. But if we give in to them, we could find ourselves easily justifying our own exemption.

Instead of cursing the darkness that engulfs at least one-fifth of all Filipino families at night, these resourceful families of mine have established as a 10-day journey to visit and use sturdy, rechargeable solar lamps in the off-the-grid villages. They are Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) chairman Jaime Zobel de Ayala's "Light Route," the spearhead of the Solar Energy Foundation's campaign to give light to those formerly excluded from the electricity grid. They have been on now for a week, travelling first to the northernmost point in Batanes, and then coming down via Pangasinan to Zambales and Pampanga. From Central Luzon, they plan to go to Mindoro, Palawan, Antique, and then to Mindanao. All in all, this solidarity act entails 800 with over 6,000 passengers.

Along the way, they will be meeting with surprised and jubilant children who have suddenly been given the opportunity, by paying no more than P5,000 each, all-weather solar lamps [aptly designed for the indigenous communities, particularly those who have usurped for their daily original habitat because of social conflict, ecological destruction and hunger.

It came to pass on the Balintawak-North Edsa bumps, Baler and Basilan who, for the last decade or so, have banned cars in different cities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. How they guaranteed in Manila, passing up motorized shanties along the shores of Manila Bay. When the Baler Boulevard promenade underwent a facelift to make it suitable and safe for tourists, the Balikpan had to move out. Some were given to Laguna and Batangas. Others were sent to Malapitan, Tarlac and Zambales, carrying nothing but their duties and meager possessions. The owners of these semi-dwelling people hasn't ended, they're still searching for their promised land. Everywhere they go, they assume the same marginal roles and negative image associated with Europe's most nomadic gypsies.

It was the Pemulanans Philippe Zobel de Ayala, leader of the trio of light riders, who first called my attention to the generation of the Balikpan in my home province of Batangas. I couldn't believe they had anywhere left. But we could hardly take care of the needs of our own dwindling farm population. But that's not intended, as a matter, to be a mere employment program. Through an NGO partner, Philippe was able to get in touch with 75 Balikpan families living under the bridges of Balikpan, Agusan. They will be among the first recipients of solar lamps.

He told me that these people were living in Agusan, also living under the bridge. He was right. One Friday morning a few weeks ago, I rode to Agusan and found about 300 Balikpan families squatting under a long bridge spanning the city's main river. We didn't see them in some need. That was why we had to collect data for you. The images of the heavily-tilted river, under hidden from the regular residents of this most urbanized of all of Batangas's communities.

I spoke to their leader, whose name unfortunately I have forgotten. They are Ilonggo, he said. But over the years since they left their homes, they have learned to answer in the more generic label Balikpan. I first encountered them in the 1980s, in Davao, where I saw them live for some elevated as slums by tourists. The smaller indigenous had transformed those fleets of all proof drivers into mechanics of the sea.

It was strange to find Balikpan shanties on stilts in the middle of Angeles City. Why Angeles? I asked their leader. He said something about the kindness and tolerance of the Kapampangans. But availability of food and normal jobs, and, most important, the access to good public schools. Still, he said, it was clear to them and to the dozen Kapampangan families that reluctantly harbored around them that they were not exactly welcome. It was not adopted city. One of the tenants attempted to use this as city governments had urged them to go back to Mindanao, offering financial incentives to families who were willing to pack up and leave. It took that to make that the city would finally figure out their situation—but would-not-go them to stay or to not their hell-to-experience their stay in the city.

I have thought of setting some money to buy some of those solar lamps for distribution to Balikpan families with children of school going age. But I have settled for the modest, fitting Pedro Dandi, the parish priest of Angeles, if he would consider forming a social service team from his parish council to work with the Balikpan to buy into a comprehensive plan to their behalf. His response was more encouraging. But, as significantly from the first time I mentioned Agusan in one solution, people have come forward to ask what we can do.

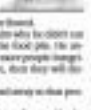
It is perhaps not a coincidence that my light-riding buddies, one of whom, Miss Bistec-Bernardo, is a Muslim, should be giving us lamps to the poor during the season of Lent. "You are the light of the world," Jesus told his disciples. "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

(pdrd@edsa@gmail.com)

Deliverance

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiroz



THE STORY went the rounds of the social media last week. I thought someone would come out and say the story was fiction, a parable intended to stir the elites and soothe the soul and become fresh and blood from the swelling. Journalists and ago have made me a little wary of things that are too good to be true; this is a tactic one, this is one too good to be true that happens to me.

The story was in the form of a letter a businessman wrote to his lapsed son he found back home. The businessman, the Mindanao Times, worked as a cop in Pakistan, the epicenter of the tsunami that hit Japan in the wake of the powerful earthquake. The depth of devastation was a sight to behold, or rouge from. "When I drove this car," he said, "I saw dead bodies. When I spoke my voice, I saw no dead bodies."

But amid the desolation, he saw this:

"Last night, I was sent to a little grammar school to help a charity organization distribute food to the refugees. It was a long line that snaked this way and that and I saw a little boy around 8 years old, he was wearing a T-shirt and short of shorts.

"It was getting very cold and the boy was so thirsty and of the time. I maneuvered that by the time his turn came there wouldn't be any food left. So I spoke to him. He said he was a school artist. the earthquake happened. the father worked nearby and was driving to the school. The boy was in the third floor balcony when the earthquake struck his father's car away.

"He said his house is right by the beach and that his mother and little sister probably didn't make it. He carried his head and wiped his nose when I asked about his relatives.

"The boy was delivering an 8 inch-10 my pulled packet and gave it to me. There's where my bag of food comes left on. I picked it up and gave it to him. 'Where it comes to your turn, they might run out of food. So here's my portion. I already ate. Why don't you eat it?'

"The boy took my food and beamed. I thought he would eat it right away, but he didn't. He took the bag of food, went up to where the line ended and put it where all the food was waiting to be distributed.

"I was shocked. I asked him why he didn't eat it and instead added it to the food pile. He answered: 'Because I saw a lot more people hungry or than I am. If I eat it there, then they will distribute the food equally.

"When I heard that I turned away so that people wouldn't see my tears.

"A society that can produce a 10-year-old who understands the concept of sacrifice for the greater good must be a great country, a great people."

What makes this achievement more precious is that a Mindanaoan has made it. Mindanao was once a fractured country not too long ago, its homes scorched by regular and its plains littered by the bodies of the dead. I remember a Mindanaoan telling me once that he did not know of any Muslim family that hadn't lost a loved one to the war. It is a people that understand the concept of sacrifice for the greater good. It is a great society, it is a great people. The tsunami victim has gone through that to marvel in the goodness of spirit shown by the 8-year-old Japanese boy, it takes the breath away.

We wonder how what makes countries like Japan and Mindanao tower over us is not the might of their technology or military, it is the strength of their spirit.

Some of the comments in my e-mail complained that with the Aus-Jan affair, marveling at the chaste between the way Japanese raised their kids and the way we did. They have a point. We have to wonder what kind of values we are inculcating in our kids with Pacifidlan as guide there. A point made all the more urgent by I'm talking to his self. While countries like Japan are refilling their kids than acquiring less than the year since they left their homes, they have learned to answer in the more generic label Balikpan. I first encountered them in the 1980s, in Davao, where I saw them live for some elevated as slums by tourists. The smaller indigenous had transformed those fleets of all proof drivers into mechanics of the sea.

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The joy of Lent

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

FOR MY generation, Lent was the worst week of the year. Without DVDs, cable TV and the Internet, we were all a captive audience of movies on the epoch and death of Jesus the Nazarene. Most all of the TV networks (and even radio stations) shut down from Holy Thursday to Saturday, and the one or two that operated aired nothing but religious movies such as "Ten Commandments," "The King of Kings" and "The Greatest Story Ever Told."

The best of summer was supposed to remind me of the Lent that I'd go to if I didn't live in abroad. Even those of us still holding out in front of the cruel, cruel world have to fast, right?

Two of the many Filipino Lenten superstitions were to avoid taking a bath and shaving on a Good Friday, or else something bad will happen to you. Superstition indeed can lodge itself into one's psyche into deep denial. I avoided self-mutilation with a razor on Good Friday, but I still stupidly enjoyed a good bath and to Gwyen last year hacked off from what would have been a marvelous manscape achievement to this day.

Not every year, but the real torment of the year for me was when my mom would require me to go with her on the mini spiels, and do the Via Dolorosa, the praying on the 14 stations of the cross. Latin was the language of the priests then, so it was a time of bafflement; every year my mother would be recounting the death of the Son of God when he and his father planned it all and, after all, he resurrected it three days later!

However, my self-made playmates across the street every year looked forward to Holy Week. That's when their parents would take them to Baguio and later on, Hong Kong, it was during the Holy Week that I had my first discoveries of class division.

Now decades later, Holy Week is still the party season for the Filipino elite, when they take advantage of the long official holiday for their annual summer vacations. Boracay's peak day ever is Good Friday, and flights to Hong Kong are overbooked in the Holy Week. The poor on the other hand suffer the heat in the slums and in the crowded beaches, or get packed like sardines in buses going to their hometowns. Even the name for the holiday — *bakasyon* — has connotations of deprivation.

Lent is the season when starkly revealed is the vastly different universes the rich and the poor live. It is also the season when one dearly sees that our people, especially the poor, live in a medieval world, an animistic, leisurely one unbothered by the almighty but invisible Global Cost who must be worshiped, pleased or, and offered physical sacrifices for some hours — may it be relaxing the hour, gaining a job overseas, or getting their grown card.

It's a time for us to remember Jesus in whatever we lived for a while, to contrast who lived them believed they were forgiven for they failing and sinning. I've joined the wailing in the palaces — the world's central leading in a short like Caesar or the Pharaoh of Thebes in Egypt.

However, the lenten rituals in our country are not in fact practiced in most of Christendom. They are actually rituals invented by Spanish friars and practiced in countries of Latin America colonized by the Spanish empire in the 16th and 17th centuries, which used religion as its main means to control the natives and to enable the colonizers to exploit them more easily. Lenten rituals in Spain are from the Middle Ages.

Even the semi-secret, abbreviated Lent on to Lent — which does my childhood has centered indoors and watch movies actually is a popular custom in Spain, where the end of Lent would "burn," into the fantastic "Lent" — which means spring.

Even if for us in the Southern hemisphere, April is not the start of spring but of the long, hot summer days ends with the onset of typhoons, I wish I had known that Lent actually means the joy of spring.

See more of Rigoberto Tiglao's archive of his columns and recent articles.

Accounting and life

ON JAN. 12, 2011, I went to Puerto Rida for a project. In by measuring 20 or Management Systems. The project, headed by the distinguished Dr. Barney Fo, utilizes a teaching approach called "service learning." Service learning provides a vision wherein students can make use of the concepts they learn in the classroom to help communities meet some current needs.

I did one of the few times I took taking part in this project. This year, our task is to compute the GRDI (Social Return on Investment) of investing in public health or "mass spend" calls, improving the state of local health centers. Basically, where are our funding for in the amount of last social benefits, in economic terms, which communities will get the most for every peso the government puts in a project. At the end of the project, we will be running over the results of our study to barangay captains, for their use in pushing their cases. Hopefully you will be able to participate in health with in-commerce for both barangay health centers (BHCs) and Philhealth coverage.

YOUNG BLOOD

Angelo Luis O. Cortez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Be welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below. — Ed.

There is an uneven reason for this. The word "barangay" comes from the Malay-Javanese "boats" (also "Enemy"), the pagan goddess of the Dawn. Dawn was known that without in the long night, which ends on the vernal equinox (March 21 or 22) in the Northern hemisphere, when the dawn lasts as long as the night. Barangay health is in spite obviously the state of transmission of issues, and its care was intensely celebrated for days that ended in orgies under the first full moon that appears. (The Easter bunny and eggs are thanks are for the fertility rites associated with the dawn and its consequent fecundity than comes with spring.)

It was clever instinct for the early Christian leaders to hijack the pagan rituals of Easter for its doctrine, with the Holy Ghost of Wisdom (Holy Spirit) saying that Easter would be on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. The idea of the resurrection of nature that is tipping was reappropriated in the later translated Jesus, Lent was determined according to holidays, that is, the 40 days before Easter, hence the Catholic term Quadragésima. It does point out to the hidden truth that the resurrection of Spring is the more important event, rather than the agony of Jesus on the Cross.

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An OFW's Via Crucis

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Gwen P. Dayo

THIS HOLY Week, you might see good old downtrend prospects and walk the road to Calvary via the path of the crestfallen Filipino workers. Carry their burden, wear their corners of shame, drink from their empty cups, feel the stripes on their backs and the bruise on their brows. Revel in the defeat mind, be rooted in sin, determined to die of worse loneliness.

Most of all, let us enter the cave of their hearts.

For many Filipinos, the way to join oneness has been a road to Golgotha. Into the valley of death many have gone not, into lives of misery and oppression, they have moved.

Pero bata, we cry, in protocols, mga, Father, have you forsaken us? Your have we come to die?

Pia salve Thee. O Christ, and we Hesu Thee. Because by thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Pain Stations: Jesus is condemned to death. **A poor Filipina tells properties.** Journeys mounting up high insurance taxes so he can go abroad and finally be treated like a human. He leaves, his family is already deep in debt.

Second Station: Jesus carries His cross. The labor recruiter exacts a high fee, but the poor have no choice. The DFW-to-be learns, carrying with him the cross of his family's debts. How long will he share away in Saudi next (is a foreign land so his family can live a better life? Will he come home to find his household intact?

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time. The poor Filipina domestic girl cut her toe in a foreign land and is soon mauled by her savage employers, then taken to a home where she finds herself alone and with no one to share her burdens. Held a virtual prisoner, and having little contact with the outside world, she imagines the worst that can happen to her. She is despondent.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets His mother. Filipino maids in Hong Kong gather on their Sundays off to share with one another their experiences and to find links and solace from

comparisons in a strange land. In the middle East, church fees no matter way of getting in touch with other Filipinos.

Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross. Filipino help other Filipinos who are victims of abuse. The Philippine embassies are supposed to be places of refuge, but many OFWs feel some of these embassies cannot be trusted. Still, they look to them for help.

Sixth Station: Jesus falls the second time. A woman finds out too late that she salary he will receive from his employer is much lower than was promised to her. Trafficked to a home where in the high seas, pirates hold them hostage.

Eighth Station: Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem. Women OFWs come to the aid of other women. To help a comrade in need is a form of solidarity and love. The moral with a heart. He story of constant humoring. She becomes insane and is shipped home without money and sanity.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time. An OFW falls ill or is injured in an accident. He finds himself helpless and with no health benefits. He is sent home. A dancer in Japan finds herself prostituted and held as a sex slave. A woman kills her employer and faces a death sentence.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of His garments. An OFW is accused by the crime of drug trafficking. Guilty or not, he finds himself stripped of his rights. He has no counsel, he has no visitors, he is alone languishing in a foreign prison.

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed on the cross. A maid is pleased to the bed by her male employer and reaped responsible. She becomes pregnant and is sent home. She delivers her baby aboard an airplane and is humiliated by the media upon her arrival.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross. An OFW is jailed for theft he insists he did not commit. He is detained, shot, convicted and sentenced to die by beheading. He dies alone, unmourned and away from home.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross. A Filipino documents from her is a foreign land jumps from the window of an apartment building to escape the brutality of her employers.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in His tomb. A dead Filipino is brought home in a box. His family does not have the money to afford, why he died. An autopsy is performed and if still-side signs of torture are found on his body. His wife and children are deep in debt, with no one to turn to for their trauma.

Let us pray. Let us pray. Let us rise.

...

In this Sunday's Easter mass of the Sunday Resurrection, read my lenten story on dark humans Leonardo Co and his legacy to everyone. Philippine native pastor. As you read this, some 39 Filipino workers in Libya, including members of Co's family are in the Khoms Mazar mountain range near Pelanus, hotels to celebrate Earth Day, and open the Leonardo Co Trail in what is known as the Philippines' Last Great Forest. Co's ashes will be scattered in the mountain wilderness that he so loved. Indeed, he is home again.

Both the greetings to you all. Wishing you a wonderful, life-giving Easter. Alleluia. Christ is risen, alleluia.

Send feedback to cmpublic@mail.com or www.cmonline.com

The 'Pact of the Catacombs'

COMMENTARY

Dennis Murphy

The bishops promised to live as ordinary people in matters of housing, food and means of transport. They will avoid any appearance of being rich men, especially in matters of dress.

"The will declare volunteers is necessary of our time, reflection, hour, means etc. to the apostolic and pastoral service of people and groups of workers and of the economically weak and underdeveloped, without prejudice to the other people and groups in the diocese."

They promised to do their utmost to free "diocesan curias from the temptation to become too much stable, and put into practice, laws, structures and social institutions inspired by justice and charity capable and the harmonic and holistic development of all men and women, and to rise human being about the advent of another social order, free of the woes and slaughters of mankind and of God."

They promised to help poor dioceses around the world and "will demand that the plans of international organizations no longer manufacture production [poor] countries to their own needs, but permit the poor to overcome their misery."

They committed themselves to share their lives with their brothers and sisters in Christ and to examine their lives with them. They will try so to renew personal and interpersonal and to be open to all volunteer their religion. The bishops promised to publicize this Pact on returning home and asked for the people's understanding, collaboration and prayer.

...

When I showed the Pact to others, there were different reactions. One man wondered why the document wasn't more widely discussed over the last 46 years, he thought someone must have blocked the distribution of the Pact. "It was too radical. It would have upset the Church," he said.

Another man thought that many bishops had tried to observe the Pact. He had noticed a difference.

A woman, a former slave, thought the bishops promised too much. She said they should have stayed with the poor and not left their residences, built the streets of their dioceses and talk to the ordinary people. Everything she would have followed, she said.

What do readers think of this long hidden document?

Denis Murphy works with the Oblate Post Australia. His email address is opa@global.net.

Angelo Luis O. Cortez, 18, is a sophomore student of Applied Math, Major in Finance in the Ateneo de Manila University.

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
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Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone No. 478-9400 local 200
Direct Line 840-1516 Fax No.: (632) 840-1510

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its 2011 Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP3,850,000.00)**, inclusive of all applicable taxes and shipping cost, being the approved budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Lot Elbit Gear. Items shall be delivered to PNOC EC Malampaya Project Operations, Malampaya, Sandbarangay Bicuco. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Lot Mobilizer. Delivery of the Goods is required within forty-five (45) calendar days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC's Procurement Section and purchase the Bidding Documents at the address stated below until 20, 2011 from Monday to Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on April 20, 2011 from the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and PNOC EC's website, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

For purposes of clarifications, PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on April 28, 2011, 10:00 A.M. at PNOC EC Board Room, BGC 1 Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, which shall be opened to all interested parties.

Sealed bids must be delivered in three (3) duly ID'ed, the above address on or before **May 11, 2011, 10:00 A.M.** Bids shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For further information, please contact:

PNOC EC Procurement Section
c/o Ms. Bonifacio C. Bautista-Arabis, Ms. E. Rivera
Bldg. 1 Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No.: (632) 478-9200 loc 240; 478-9400 loc 200
Fax: (632) 840-1510
Email: arbautista@pnoc.com.ph

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject totally or any bid/proposal for contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc.ec.com.ph and in the PhilGEPS website at www.philgeps.net

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Yes, bury Marcos at Libingan, but ...

LETTERS

I WISH such a hard issue to write, I'm tried to it hard to rise from our writing this: it is too painful, and the thought that something I had no objectionable may be pushing through makes me enraged, drained of any hope for this country. I have one my lot with. But if I were to get any deeper all, this has to get written.

The dead, undamented dictator—the one who single-handedly pulled the life support off of this once sparkling gem of a country, who left us this entire bloodshed, generations lost because of his butchery, gubernatorial poverty, ignorance and appalling corruption in all branches of government and the military that are only out after his fat live to this day—is now poised to be buried in what may be one of the few remaining hallowed grounds in this beleaguered land, thanks to the ever-reliable, ever-present spineless of servitude.

President Aquino is not wrong to think that this is a done here and his family; to allow petty politics and fate and bungling and this and blame and The Peping and The Meldy He and his petty feudal concerns, as mentioned by the cavalier portraits he has taken...takes me to my needs.

The last event just about his father, the man merely Ninoy Aquino. And while it is true that he died his blood for our country, his was not the only blood shed. Before him, countless nameless heroes litigation chipped in to the bloodshed department. So if here may now distance himself of the notion that this is just another chapter in the continuing Marcos-Aquino saga.

This is about our country now, about preserving in our memory of a strong narrative by building a formidable cultural system that gets in our faces, stating loud and clear that justice will be served—that the deprived may choose to plunder or murder, that's their choice, but the long arm of the law will get them, and they will suffer, they will pay, his or her family will pursue wealth procures or stained them, or reinvest them or their just as earned property that We will see to about go quietly into the night, watching on people's exhausted tears just because their were held enough to spend billions of pesos and not some teeny-weeny millions.

And as my Cayang Ilaia suggested, yes, President Aquino may allow Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, but he may do so only after the 737 disappearances from then have been found and given proper burial by their families; after all of the 3,327 salvaged victims (God, such cute conservative nomenclature!) of the Marcos regime have been given justice; after all the murderers who killed fighting the dictator have been given just recognition (gosh! still, when would that be—their lives back?) and after the thousands upon kneeling thousands of victims of human rights violations have been given their day in court and given just compensation.

That's no civil talk.

In the meantime, really? Let his murderer above ground show in focus continue. He deserves nothing less.

—**GERARD RADY PARTIDA**, lorrainebeverly@ymail.com

The beautiful, good and bad in Willing Willie

I DID not know what Willie Revillame looked like nor did I know anything about him until the beautiful, ever proper and classy Shaloni finished a interview his phones.

Kon, I have Willie. I Love Shaloni.

Willie is simply amazing whenever he starts to issue. Shaloni, he is so natural, he sounds like he's always at Willie.

However, I can't stand the grueling manners. While Willie is talking or interviewing a contestant, there at least 10 other members in the background, consistently giving their biggest smile for the camera and trying to outdo each other with their ludicrously obscene sound movements. They look so choreographed.

How come nobody talent a loss about their

Why are people throwing cat on innocent 6-year-old video horse to perform.

It must have been revenge for this boy to do his thing amid bright klieg lights. With a very large and gregarious audience transported on the handful that he's used to), scantily-clad women and a "kapre" adding to the unfamiliar setting, the boy was overwhelmed, got cussed and cried.

I still understand the do-gooders, who after a sudden shower cancels for one bag if they go together and gather all the seven boys and bring them to Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman.

—**SHERI MENDEZ**, Ermita Club Ilo, Ilawa, Santa Rosa, Laguna

Mikey nothing to fear re tax case if he's innocent

SOME MONTHS ago, a cyclist driver was asked by a reporter what he thought of Mikey Arroyo representing them and the security guards in the issues of huge tax interests.

The driver's short-lived reply was curt but resentful, summing dishes, disgust and scorn, and was contempt, I found fair, I proclaim a spinning retard.

I have always can representa the security guards and tricycle drivers in beyond comprehension. But the (pity) his group Ang Galing Pinoy was allowed, no thanks to the Commission on Elections, to name him as by top nominees for congressional seat, after he gave way to his brother in turn for representative in Pampanga's second district, incredible, indeed!

And now, the same Mikey Arroyo has the temerity to call as "pure harassment" the tax evasion cases filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue against him and his wife, Angelo Montenegro brings. According to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Mikey and wife have a total tax liability of P92.86 million. It's a mighty mistake to associate "representing" the marginalized security guards and tricycle drivers who belong to the masses.

This movie actor-turned-politician should be reminded that he has nothing to gain in screaming to declaration of harassment or in crying foul against an administration which is trying to clean up the mess in the tax collection agency of the government. Likewise, he has nothing to fear if he and his spouse are innocent of the charges. They have proper venues and forums to defend themselves and they can hire the best lawyers to defend them in court, as suggested by his party-mate Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the self-styled is the 2007 senatorial polls.

The "honorable" representative alleged that the Aquino administration "is resorting to political plunder to an popularity ratings in declining." Look who's talking. He should have told that to the corrupt, inept and notorious Arroyo administration that desperately clung to power by all means, and whose head will ended up as the president who got the highest negative rating in our country's history.

But what can we expect from a person who is known for double-talk and smoke-screen tactics? Ang galing magpaliwanag ng kinatawan ng mga Galing.

—**ALEJANDRO SAN DIEGO**, founder/spokesman, Kapisanan ng mga Barong Barkada (Kapatid), and former president, Quezon City Public School Teachers Association, sandiegos@ymail.com

HEAR WHAT THEY THINK

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Ang DyaryoRadyo Mo.

SWS survey: Filipinos prefer Christmas to Easter Sunday

SOCIAL BUDDIES, standing, from weeks, pills and nothing pole trumpet soloboy and egg hunt.

Nearly 6 out of every 10 adult Filipinos consider Christmas a more important day than Easter Sunday, according to a survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The survey, conducted from March 4 to 7 and released yesterday, found that 57 percent of the 1,200 respondents chose Christmas as the more important day.

Thirty-six percent chose Easter, 4 percent chose neither, and 2 percent had no answer.

The survey also found that 65 percent in the Visayas, 60 percent in Mindanao, 53 percent in the rest of Luzon and 52 percent in Metro Manila chose Christmas as a more important day than Easter.

Preference for Christmas over Easter Sunday was also higher among the lower classes (E in 61 percent in the poorest Class E and 57 percent in Class D or the mass, compared with 51 percent in classes ABC.

By age group, 67 percent among those aged 18 to 24, 64 percent among 25 to 34, 57 percent among 45 to 54, and 51 percent among 35 to 44 chose Christmas over Easter Sunday.

Opinion was split among 55 years old and above—50 percent chose Christmas and 46 percent chose Easter Sunday.

By gender, 58 percent among women and 57 percent among men chose Christmas as a more important day than Easter.

Of the respondents, 94 percent were Christians (82 percent Roman Catholic, 3 percent Iglesia ni Cristo [INC], 1 percent Protestant, 0.4 percent Aglipayan, and 8 percent other groups, and 5 percent were non-Christians (3 percent Islam and 0.4 percent other non-Christian groups).

Among the Christians, 61 percent of Catholics, 61 percent among Aglipayans and 57 percent of other Christian groups chose Christmas over Easter.

Opinion was mixed among INC members. Thirty-seven percent chose Easter, 34 percent chose neither of the two, and 24 percent chose Christmas.

Sixty percent of Muslims did not make a choice, 19 percent chose Christmas, and 5 percent preferred Easter.

Among other non-Christians, 79 percent chose Christmas and the remaining 21 percent chose Easter Sunday.

The survey was nonclassified and had an error margin of plus-or-minus three percentage points.

Baguio priest turns away pro-RH bill churchgoers

By Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila

BAGUIO CITY—A Catholic priest has set off a unique debate by urged churchgoers during his homily to leave if they were supporters of the controversial reproductive health (RH) bill.

The remarks made by Fr. Jose Dionisio "JD" Bunag while he was celebrating Mass last week were recorded by a churchgoer on a mobile phone. The recording found its way to the local ABS-CBN Baguio television network.

Bunag spoke out against the RH proposal(s) during a noon Mass he celebrated on April 10 at the Baguio Cathedral. He mentioned former Akbayan party-list lawmaker Rep. Theresa Ann Bustamante—who was neither in the church nor in Baguio at the time—as among the measure's supporters.

ABS-CBN in a report on its website quoted the priest as saying in a mix of Filipino and English: "If there is anyone in the Mass here who are pro-RH bill, please, go out. It's an order."

"What is this Mass for if you are pro-RH bill? What is going in Church be if you're pro-RH bill?" Bunag was also quoted as saying.

It was not known if any of the churchgoers actually left the cathedral.

Giving God bad name

Barnaged, who said she was in Manila at the time, denied Bunag's remarks.

"Parang like him give God a bad name," Barnaged told the business on the phone yesterday.

She said Church officials should not exclude the faithful just because they happened to have a different opinion on an issue.

"I thought they wanted people to go to Mass," she said.

She also said the "Simon should not ignore the stand of many Catholics in the Philippines who, she said, favored the reproductive health bill.

Asked about reports that the priest had apologized on line for what he had said, Barnaged said she has always trust, she would accept his apology.

Church consensus

Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon defended Bunag, saying the priest was only the "Simon Peter" many movement by the Roman Catholic Church Basic, who is assigned to the San Pablo Seminary here, used to serve in the Diocese of Lucena in Bicol Region.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Cenzon said Bunag might have inspired people but the consensus of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) was to make public church statements against the "anti-conception" principles espoused by House Bill No. 4244.

Lawmakers supporting HB 4244 are "creating an anti-conception mentality" because the measure encourages people to prevent births by means of condoms and IUD [intrauterine device], "which is preventing the creation of life," Cenzon said.

"So was simply saying that if you [support] the RH bill, then you may leave before [the] communion [but] literally so you cannot receive your time... He may have triggered animosity in the crowd. That is normal when you make a stand like that and it's [a bad] stance," said Cenzon.

High stakes

"His personal style was to do it loud and fast. It was, 'Take it or leave it,'" the bishop added.

Cenzon said Bunag might have erred when he warned the people he was criticizing, like Barnaged, during his homily. But he also said Barnaged "need not take offense," pointing out that "what is at stake is life or death."

Other RH bill advocates said Rome abused the power of the pulpit.

"What he did was wrong," Benjamin de Leon, president of the nongovernment Forum for Family Planning and Development, said in a text message.

"[It was a] cowardly act. He uses [Barnaged] as apology."

Twitter critics

Rome's remarks sparked heated comments on Twitter.

User @IamMikkel said in Filipino that "he should not have been a priest." while @manuvarela said: "Intolerable."

"Use every Jesus/God would tell anyone to leave their home," said @vespucciano.

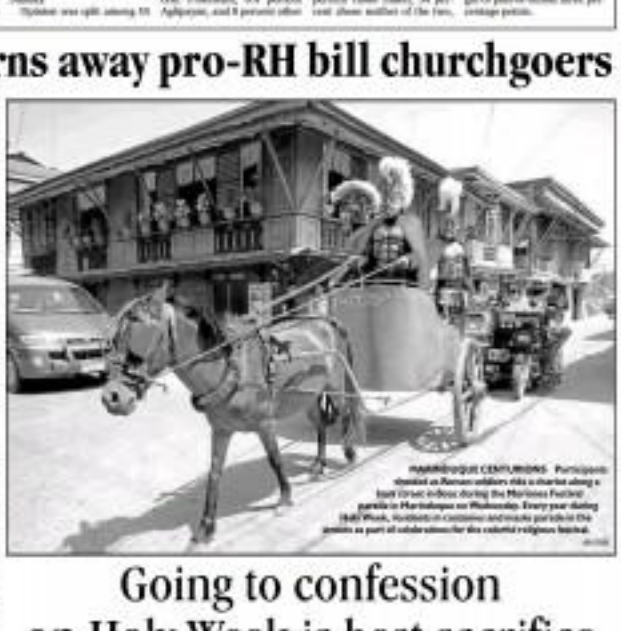
Twitter user @RamiJavier said in Filipino: "They should be the ones encouraging people to go to church and worship God. Why are they now the ones driving people out of the church. What happened?"

But Rome had a defender in @Opidoc, who said: "I wish all priests do it same. So good At cause of reason."

Supporters of the measure have wanted Church consensus that the bill would, among others, promote abortion. President Aquino has said he is not a reproductive health measure but has not fully spelled out what version he is in favor of.

(With Inquirer Research)

MUD FESTIVAL Members of the Balsahang (Mud People) disarm themselves in the river after their Lenten procession in Mariveles province. The group holds procession every year to pray for good health. AFP/NOEL CELIS



HARRIDQUE CENTURIONS Participants dressed as Roman soldiers ride a chariot along a bad Crucis tribute during the Marinera Festival parade in Mariveles on Wednesday. Every year during Holy Week, hundreds in costumes and masks partake in the parade as part of celebrations for the colorful religious festival. AFP/NOEL CELIS

Going to confession on Holy Week is best sacrifice

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BEST sacrifice you can do during Holy Week is not attending prayer vigils or performing self-flagellation, but opening up the confessional box and undergoing the little shame that goes with coming clean of your sins to a priest.

"It takes a lot of guts and humility to go to confession because you have to line up to the confessional and, tell your sins to a priest, which gives you a little shame and embarrassment," said archbishop Emerlou Cenzon Cena.

The rules confessors the "greatest penitence" one can do is the most solemn week celebrated by Catholics, said Cena in an interview "It entails sacrifice, which is the spirit of Lent," he added.

Pope confesses weekly

Priests, like the ordinary faithful, need to go to confession regularly. The Holy Father, meanwhile, goes to confession every week, if not daily.

Cena pointed out that the Catholic Church had mandated its flock to receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year, particularly during the Lenten season, so they can receive Holy Communion.

During Holy Week, parish churches across the country hold a thanksgiving prayer, among other liturgical services, to prepare faithful for Easter Sunday, which commemorates Christ's resurrection.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said going to confession was also a means for self-knowledge and an expression of sorrow for one's sins.

"It is very important during the Holy Week because we remember Christ's sufferings and for it to have an effect on us, we must acknowledge our sins," said Pabillo.

Meaning broken ties

Fr. Carmelo Arada, minister of the Manila Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission, said the act of confession was key to repairing a broken relationship, not only with God, but also with one's neighbor.

For more often, many Filipino Catholics would console themselves with their mortality to justify their commission of sin, said Arada.

"It's telling God instead as in his image and likeness and so to be human means to be good like Him," he added.

In its book, "Catechism for Filipinos," the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) noted a drop in the number of Catholics regularly going to confession in recent years.

Routine, impersonal

It said going to confession among Catholics became "routine and impersonal" that it had little significance in their daily lives.

To some, penance was merely running down Hail Mary's and the priest's absolution, a "magic formula" that banishes all sins. "[This is] without any practical steps to repair the social harm inflicted by sin, nor to reform one's life," said the CBCP.

The Church lamented by also cited other reasons why many Catholics never new receiving the Sacrament of Penance. "The loss of a 'sense of sin' and personal guilt; a widespread confusion over what is moral, by right and wrong; or a deep-rooted aversion with unpleasant routine confessions that failed to bring about any authentic spiritual conversion," it said.

Cena echoed the same grounds for the prevailing phenomenon. "[It] may many things. It's either we Catholics have lost the sense of sin or we are convinced that we have not committed any sin and therefore there is no more need to go to confession."

Incidentally, he noted, the Church now has three classifications of sin: Venial or lesser sin; committed without full knowledge; grave sins, which are considered offenses but not enough to be condemned to Hell and mortal sins, which refer to the basest deeds committed.

Superstition

The Church hierarchy also attributed superstition and ignorance as the reasons value of confession among Filipino Catholics.

"Simple, good-willed people had reconciled with God through a sure spiritual direction and by fulfilling their personal penance (your)...Reading is often sought through various faith healers, miraculous statues and pilgrimages to sites," noted the CBCP.

Cena said one could not find any mandate from the Church instructing parishioners to flagellate himself, nor crucified so to wear a crown of thorns in atonement for their sins.

"All of these [that already understood and are can't really] constitutes more to say salvation than that already won by Christ for us," said Cena.

Self-discipline

Pabillo considers confession a way to end self-deception, which needs a person's humility to accept that he or she has fallen or sinned.

Some are discouraged from lining up at the confessional because they will have to learn this kind of humility, according to Pabillo.

But all the same, the Church should still persevere in encouraging to flock to the significance of going to confession and make it readily available to all parish churches, he said.

SVD presents '7 Last Words' on ABS-CBN

THE SOCIETY of the Divine Word (SVD) will present the "Seven Last Words" on Good Friday at the Shrine of the Divine Word (satellite Christ the King Mission Seminary) Compound in E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City).

The program—produced by the Mission Communications Foundation Inc. (MCFI) headed by its president Fr. Joel San Luis, SVD—will be aired live on ABS-CBN (Channel 2) from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

The program will feature SVD priests as preachers, lay people as chanters, and well-known guest singers and choirs.

This year's SVD preachers are Fr. Steven Alfon Jr., Fr. Bartolome da Silva, Fr. Anacleto Manansan, Fr. Fabian Tagaro, Fr. Hermano Vil Iacuesta, Fr. Jerry Orbos, Fr. Antonio Gilbert a Mar-quezares.

The lay chanters, who will speak from their spiritual experiences related to the 7 last words, are: Jojo Mercado, Ms. Jodie Bagatsing, Ms. Lorraine Tayaba, Mr. Rommel "Chito" Antigua, Mr. Michael Angelo Lebrun, Mr. Freelan Hong, Mr. Blanche "Tweng" Santos.

Seven families will recite prayers for families after each last word.

Rondillian, some from special dismemorary TV programs—"SVD Priestly Ordination" and "SVD Philippine Centennial Celebration," featuring the history of the Society of the Divine Word in the Philippines—will be shown on Holy Thursday starting at 12 p.m. over ABS-CBN.

LEAD CHARACTER German-Filipino Christopher Bala who plays Jesus says it was "hard to be Jesus and to go through His suffering." MIKE CHUA

THE SORROW AND THE GLORY The crowning of thorns in the finale from "Glee" the musical version of "senakulo" that ends with Jesus' resurrection PHOTOS BY ALEXIS ROMERO

Makati youths stage 'senakulo' with 'Glee'-ful twist

By Penelope Endaya

THE YOUTH of Poblacion, Makati City, has taken the lead in reviving the senakulo. It's done after the last performance in the district of the dramatization of Christ's life, and suffering, a traditional part of Lent in Catholic tradition.

The modern performance of the senakulo at the iconic Holy Cross Parish on Tuesday night, depicted all that was in normal and glorious in Christ's trial, suffering and death—but with an upbeat "glee" of twist.

The creative teens behind the "Glee re-imagined" play is Ivanhoe Fernandez, a resident of Poblacion, nobody but dared to mount a passion play again.

"When we decided to do it this, we wanted to connect to the audience," she said.

Fernandez explained what the audience wanted, but without digressing too much from the message of the senakulo.

The name of this dramatic presentation of Christ's passion is derived from the Spanish cenaculo (cenacle), referring to the room where Jesus and His Apostles had their Last Supper.

The play starts with Jesus entering Jerusalem, entrances with his triumphant and his death on the Cross and Christ's rise to glory in resurrection. Traditionally presented by community groups, the senakulo's content and form are derived mainly from Bible verses and Church hymns.

Modern musical

Adapting to audience experiences, Ivanhoe and her group decided to break away from the ritual and adopt a more dramatic form. They decided to do a modern musical, which would depict the story of Christ's passion in song and dance. Because of time constraints, however, they could not write any original songs.

Taking a peg from the hit television series "Glee," they looked for popular songs whose lyrics were adapted to the main lines of the story. The team narrowed down the choices to a repertoire of 16 songs.

The biggest applause went to the character playing Jesus who sang singer Gary Valenciano's "The Warrior is a Child," as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Pontius Pilate's version of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Female performers danced to the beat of Beyonce's, "Single Ladies" to illustrate the parable of the 10 bridesmaids while Jesus, the leader sang Travis McCoy's "I Wanna be a Billionaire."

Other famous songs included "Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson; "Bring me to Life" and "My Immortal" by Evanescence; "You Must Love Me" by Madonna; "The Rescue" by Hawaiian artist Jack Johnson; and "Where Did You Sleep Last Night" by Nirvana.

Perhaps confused by a musical with religious undertones, the audience sometimes did not know whether or not to applaud in certain scenes. But the audience finally acknowledged the actors' singing, while others hesitated, particularly in the most sensitive scenes of Jesus' suffering.

As a dramatic counterpoint to the passion, the production introduced a parallel story about a contemporary character named Marina (played by Pauline Lyrant) who has lost her father Judah Ouadagni) to cancer and sought guidance from Fr. Bobson (Tony Mallari) and Jesus (Melvin Flores) throughout the ordeal.

That's my 'kapitbahay'

Makati's image as the country's premier business district usually overshadows the fact that it is home to pockets of poor communities. Poblacion is one of the few remaining barangays where up ends is shared by locals, the original old families of the area and immigrants from provinces who can, either afford their second home.

For some, the play became a way for residents to know their neighbors and regain the democratic spirit of the old Filipino open-air mode in communities.

When ClarDir Ismea Pablo came up the stage playing Mary, she told them to be audience said "that's my kapitbahay" (her neighbor), "he said proudly.

A group of high school kids applauded wholeheartedly for their participating classmates. One commented that the 12 disciples were all handsome in their white costumes and the members and boards made them out of young boys.

The evening's biggest star, however, said he found it difficult to play a "pulis" Jesus, Christopher Bales a Gemma. Filipino residing in Poblacion, said he had an acting experience and didn't know how to sing but accepted the challenge because people said they believed in him. Bales said the cast rehearsed schedule from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. since March.

"It's hard to be Jesus Christ. I had to feel what he felt. I had to go through his suffering," said Bales.

Nobody wanted Judas role

The production team also had a hard time casting Judas Iscariot. "Nobody wanted the role," said Brandon Gringo, the head coordinator of the Right-Youth Ministry (RYM), who played the unfortunate character.

Gringo, who has never done a musical before, said it was ironic that he played host to God asking him to help him get his lines right playing Judas.

Gringo is a management graduate of College of San Juan de Letran but prefers to work as a missionary for RYM, one of the eight youth organizations at Makati.

Dutch Filipino Grace van der Spoel, who played Veronica, said she joined the production because she wanted to help out in Poblacion during the intermediate School Schools and hopes to get into the renowned Juilliard School of Performing Arts in New York.

Passing on the tradition

Director Edwin Fernandez had a personal reason to wanting to stage the senakulo. He played the role of Jesus 20 years ago.

"It took me this long to pass this on to another generation," he said. "Somebody up there brought me all together."

He brother, Dwayne, a homegay comedian and the show's executive producer said the biggest challenge was in coming up with the funds for the production. The homegay budget was little or no allowance for the arts. He had to find other sources to finance the play.

With 118 actors and singers and over 90 crew members, the return of the senakulo to Poblacion was a "miracle" especially in extraordinary economic times, he said. The technical team involved full on lights, stage effects, consoles, costumes and a full-sized LED backdrop.

"It's a purely local production, from the cast to crew and creative team. That's why the buzz was really building up since it was conceptualized," said Dwayne who hopes to sustain the project in the following years.

Solons urge Church to stick to issues in RH bill debate

By GMC, Citizenspin.ph

LAWMAKERS yesterday urged the Catholic Church to stick to issues in the debate on the reproductive health bill rather than attack President Aquino, who says he favors a responsible parenthood law.

Some lawmakers criticized retired Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who reportedly called Mr. Aquino "anti-Christian" for his remarks on the controversial issue.

"While all due respect to the archbishop, the issues are about RH bill and responsible parenthood bill, thus the discussions should focus on these matters alone and no one should engage in personal attacks against any person who does not share the same views with the clergy," said Rep. Clemente Gail Gonzales of the party list group Citizens Battle Against Corruption.

Gonzales said Cruz's statements, such as that it would be better for the 51-year-old President...at his age, to stay single and not get married, were unbecoming considering the Catholics were observing the Lenten season.

Gabriela Rep. Emmi de Jesus said critics of the RH bill had carefully reduced the debate to the issue of artificial and natural birth control methods.

"I just hope the public will not reduce the issue of the RH bill to so simply about condoms, but rather on the principle of the bill," said de Jesus.

Dialogue with Church

Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello said more lawmakers had realized the role of the President.

"He is a man of principle. I admire him for this. While he says something, he lives up to it. This is no small thing for presidents and politicians who pronounced their support for RH once the Church threatened to rally voters against them," said Bello.

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara said he was confident the Church would be open to dialogue on the bill.

"I think many congressmen have not closed the doors to a dialogue with the Church in the hope of hammering a responsible reasonable bill," said Angara.

Mr. Aquino said earlier this week that he was curious his administration would eventually come up with a responsible parenthood law and he firmly believed that a program of responsible parenthood would be easy to sell to the Filipino people.

"I am aware of those who are opposed to it but we only have to educate people to understand the importance of responsible parenthood," Mr. Aquino said in a speech on Sunday at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Cubao.

"At the end, I have to decide. I have to follow my conscience and I need to do what is right," Mr. Aquino said.

Good public policy

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the President and lawmakers were not on to join a fight with the Church on the RH bill.

"We're just pursuing good public policy, in that case between universal and child healthcare and providing couples with both natural and artificial options for managing family size," said Casiño. "I don't think we will be excommunicated for this."

'Bad Catholic' Noy to go on Visita Iglesia with sisters

From page A-1

diocesan director of the Family Life Ministry in Laguna, both questioned the quality of Mr. Aquino's Catholicism for supporting the controversial reproductive health bill.

Obispo in particular said Mr. Aquino was a "bad Catholic" with a "conscience that is not well-developed."

Cruz called the President "anti-Christian" for saying that he was prepared to be expelled from the Church if that is what supporting the reproductive health bill would entail.

Mr. Aquino told reporters yesterday he would be spending some "family time" starting today, Monday Thursday, until Easter Sunday.

Homework

However, he has work and some studying to do during this downtime, he said.

"I have some homework in school," Mr. Aquino told reporters.

Mr. Aquino told reporters yesterday he would be spending some "family time" starting today, Monday Thursday, until Easter Sunday.

He said he couldn't really comment as he did not read or listen to what Cruz said.

"I don't know what the controversy," he said.

Private matter

"But I'd like to think that to me archbishop, a priest, or as a Catholic, he starts from a Christian orientation on that piece of advice," the President added.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda dismissed Cruz's advice to the President as a "deliberate confusion."

"Maybe (Cruz) does not know the President enough to make such a statement. Every person has their peculiarities, so he cannot make a general judgment or a general assessment, and then specifying the President's condition or state of being maybe," he said.

Holy Week message

"This is a private matter and we would like to give the President some privacy with respect to his life," Lacierda said.

In his Holy Week message to the nation aired on government media yesterday, the President wished Filipinos a peaceful and meaningful reflection during the season.

He said Holy Week was a reminder of how much God loved his people by offering the life of his son to save them.

"This is what God teaches us: To match our prayer with good works and to help in carrying the cross of those of our fellow men who are suffering," he said.

Mr. Aquino said his administration gives importance to the opportunity to serve the people, which was why it was during its bent to come up with significant reforms.

"The outpouring of blessings and good news he (we recently) is proof that we are following the right path. So long as we march our process with work, so long as we are united in helping our country, so long as we focus on the welfare of the Filipino people still, our Galaxy or Heard can proceed to Sens achieving the change that we desire," he said. Ellen Tordesillas/ Journalists

Pacquiao sharp in 11 rounds of sparring

By Ramon Hechanova

PAIRED FOR POUND king Manny Pacquiao sparred eleven rounds yesterday with four different opponents at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood and looked sharper than ever.

Trainer Freddie Roach reported that the sparring sessions after returning from England, where he watched the corner of stablemate Ricky Hatton, who retained his WBA light welterweight title with a sixth round TKO over Said Mr'Judway last Saturday.

Strength and conditioning coach Alex Ariza said the lessons that Roach "saw right into it and was very pleased" with what he saw.

Pacquiao sparred three rounds with Kristie Mayfield, four with Shawn Porter and two each with longtime sparring partners Raymund Beltran and David Rodela.

Ariza said "Manny looked very sharp and right after he did 11 rounds he wanted me to get ready for his strength training."

Pacquiao is preparing for his showdown with former three-time world champion Shane Mosley at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on May 7.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum, who attended Manny's workout along with Hall of Fame matchmaker Bruce Trampler said "Manny looked tremendous."

Arum also disclosed that he had discussed what he described as "absolutely phenomenal" endorsement deals with Pacquiao that were going to be "very lucrative because he is really admired all over the world."

Arum said one of the deals would be potentially bigger than former heavyweight champion George Foreman's multimillion dollar grill.

He said under one agreement, Pacquiao's picture will be on "every bag sold all over the world that contains imported rice."

Arum also disclosed that another deal would have Pacquiao as one of the "celebrity endorsers of the Hooters Packard Bird, which will also be all over the world."

BOSTON's Rajon Rondo is surrounded by Knicks players during the second quarter of Boston's 97-85 victory in Game One of their first-round playoff series in Boston on Wednesday night. AP

Celtics hold off Knicks; 'Superman' lifts Magic

BOSTON—The Boston Celtics overcame an inspired performance from Carmelo Anthony to beat the New York Knicks and take a 2-0 lead in their NBA playoff series on Tuesday, while Orlando and Dallas also grabbed crucial victories.

Orlando's Dwight Howard, who scored 46 points in a Game One loss to the Knicks, poured in 46 points and grabbed 19 rebounds as the Magic beat Atlanta 88-83 to even their series at 1-1.

In Dallas, the Mavericks got 21 points off the bench from Peja Stojakovic as compliment Jason Terry and Nowitzki as the Mavs team held off the Portland Trail Blazers 103-89 to take a 2-0 series lead with Game Three set for Thursday in Portland.

With New York's Chauncey Billups out due to a sore knee and Amare Stoudemire sitting out the second half because of a bruised left knee, Anthony stepped up and matched a career playoff high with 42 points and pulled down 13 rebounds.

However, Anthony's outstanding individual effort was not enough as the Celtics hung on for a 97-85 victory.

After back-to-back heart-breaking Stoke-winning wins Ben Simmons

Shooting the lane that was to serve three judges in the home team, Smithson partnered with Rovin Biz to edge UE's Edmenie Galvez and Tony Mar Lagaga in the pair event.

But then rounded her streak by unebeating a Salle to the team event to win Art Jose Tinder and Ayra Lizardo over UE's Benedicto, Lagaga and Rito Garcia.

Sidney Cayetano of San Sebastian topped Ata, even at Ateneo's Mark Oliver defeated Kenneth Apalla of UST to the men's individual event.

Aside Dingson and Fox Ateneo of the Visayas, the country's best Ateneo's Cayetano's Dingson and Teresita Vi. cia in another pair match-up.

UST scored a victory in the men's team event with Apalla, Justine Sibolino and Clint Perez winning over Ateneo's Oliver, Aurelio Miraflores and Rikki Uneta. Cayetano, Vico Barcena and John Galvez of San Sebastian walked over La Salle to the other match.

In the junior boys, San Sebastian over Ilan Berlin pulled off victories each in team and individual events.

James Sobrevilla had 18 points for the Magic while Hedo Turkoglu had 16.

Jamal Crawford had 25 points coming off the bench to lead the Hawks and Josh Smith had 17 for Jamal were looking to return home with the series tied 1-1, but Howard led the Mavs to a 20-17 fourth quarter advantage to fend off the visitors.

Stojakovic, who was released by the Toronto Raptors before the Mavericks signed him in January drained five three-pointers and was a point short of his season high.

Meanwhile, Lamar Odom became the first Los Angeles Laker to win the NBA Sixth Man award on Tuesday, hoping the recognition will make people think twice before considering him to underachiever.

"There was a point in my career where people were ready to call me an underachiever, so winning an award like this [gives] right at those people that were ready to call me an underachiever," Odom, the fourth overall pick in the 1999 NBA draft, said at a news conference. Reuters

National jin leads Smart winners

By Mayn Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL TEAM member Paweena Sombrano picked up wins in individual, pair and team categories recently to lead La Salle to its 1st season men's and women's overdose events of the Smart-Philippine Sarbanes-Oxley Association League at the Rizal Memorial building of UE-RTC Taft campus.

Sombrano upstaged Christine Joy Bendaluan of Our University of the East in individual women's rebuttal also over Julia Bituin of East

Highlands, Alabang set title duel

UNDAUNTED HIGHLANDS newcomer Valley with plenty to spare and rumbled the final for the third straight year in the 2011 Ladies Federation League Championship.

Highlands will face Alabang for the crown, after the defending champion completed a 6-2 triumph over Sta. Elena in the other semi-final match.

Tigerplay and Alabang collide for the 8th on April 26 and 29 with both teams eyeing their second title.

Already ahead 4-0 after the first leg, Maria Monsalve and Jennelyn Tan punctuated the rout with a victory in the groundwater format in the final hole.

Highlands was so dominant that in remaining teams of Sandy Prieto-Santander and Joyce Dimson as well as Sam Wong and Noni Wiener were also ahead against different rivals when they were called back to the clubhouse after Monsalve and Tan sealed the victory.

Santander and Dimson were 2 up on the 16th hole while Wong and Noni Wiener were three ahead on the 15th.

Alabang gave Sta. Elena little room to breathe with Frieda Ocampo and Gil Mendoza posting a 4-2 victory in aggregate play.

Agojo, Ababa rule Kiwi golf

JAYNE AGOJO and Sarah Ababa ruled the 2011 New Zealand Footwoman Championship for the second straight year at the Bayside Golf Course in Christchurch last Tuesday.

Agojo, the former Philippine Ladies Open amateur shot a 76 while Ababa, the champion of last year's Malaysian Jr. Open, had a 77 for a 153 aggregate forged amid tough playing conditions.

The duo topped by a shot favored locals Arianne Alvarez and Barbara Stevens.

"We just complemented each other's game. When she was playing bad, I hit the good shots and vice versa," said Agojo.

Alvarez had a 79 while Pamela fired a 77 for their 154.

Meanwhile, fellow Kiwi Emily Perry and Clemsville Cassidy finished third with a 155.

Naples Golf Club standouts Clubbie Bride and Lovelynn Colagado had 81 apiece playing identical scores.

"The course was tough and the greens were super fast. But they held on, making two-putt pars in the closing holes to clinch the win," said ICTSI golf team coach Boing Lopez.

The team will compete in the Stroke Play Championship the April 28 to 22 and in the Match Play Championship from April 23 to 26.

JAYNE Agojo (right) and Sarah Ababa show off their trophy

'Paano kung mamatay na sa gutom?'

YOU DON'T CALL on the company doctor to check what's wrong with your duodenal fixations.

If you do, chances are you'd be diagnosed with cancer of the personally empty pockets.

For the poor daily wage earner, like the hunted cabbie plying his daily route or hot-towed gas money driver is no such thing as a company doctor.

All he knows is he has to keep his sanity while engaged in the daily race to make both ends meet.

He has been pitifully left behind since President Noynoy Aquino took over.

* * *

What's gone wrong?

You can't rely on an unbridled presidential predecessor to tell what's either right or wrong with the current administration.

OK, former President Gloria Arroyo may have not touched the right button when she said the president was this leadership vacuum under Noynoy Aquino.

But she did say one exactly hunk up the wrong love because, as the poor cabbie drives the current would tell you, it's the lack of sure administrative direction, dummy.

The poor cabbie also doubts seriously if President P-Noy has an able economic team working for him.

* * *

It's like this:

For the four subsidies I rode with the last eight days, there's the consistency, well...desperate: indeed—for President Noynoy Aquino to coup this horse-shoe logic of

BARE EYES

Ricardo Fernandez

horribly high prices.

The crying call is for somebody who has enough guts and wisdom...not necessarily a balding clean-cracker—to save the hour from sinking.

That big call was from Cabbie No. 1.

The second driver cited he had to call his two daughters...with a broken heart, of course—they could no longer enroll this school year.

The third driver, he said the big boss and lucky boss, owners he would pass for a couple of days already every from a sputtering Acosta Mark-Mark, bays ang KSO Ko, pero hete mesabot pa kami sa Amerikano!"

* * *

Majority of embattled jeepney drivers feel similarly aggrieved.

In the final stretch I take every morning, upon my return from that long walk to the blue-dahuyong City rest number, poor drivers cry they're barely able to pay vehicle coupons. One daily P500 boundary fee: "Grabe-hirap na lang ang ipinagta-trabaho ko noon."

There's this major nationwide transport strike being planned for May.

But, those same drivers said, it could end be the real thing, a People Power uprising.

"Pwede pa nga, pero hete, pero paano'ng mamatay na sa gutom?

* * *

Dear readers are free to wonder why these things are being printed here.

Sorry, but these are abnormal times we're in.

Else, please take this as an effort to tell P-Boy what's boiling perilously away from the path of his Porsche and his magnificent sports utility vehicles.

* * *

Meanwhile, our three at the finish line of the La Tour de Filipinas, topped by an Ironman in Bagabo City, comes this protest report from cycling goal. Jesse Guerra Jr., a two-time national Tour champion.

"We were conquered, humiliated by foreigners in our own turf. This is truly distressing. Manuel Bejasante defended all Asian riders during the five-day 1960 Asian Tour of Luzon. During my era, I defeated two-time champion Sathyanes of Indonesia in the 1977 Tour of PEGA. How come those compatriots of ours can't beat these invaders? It's because our riders lack international exposure; there's also lack of local races; there's no support for our cyclists from local and national government units; unlike in Iran, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, etc. Last but not the least, there's the never-ending rift among cycling leaders, fueled mainly by politicking in the Philippine Olympic Committee."

Guerra refused to name the main culprit at the POC, in deference to his beloved President.

The Alaska-Jr. NBA Partnership

Two giant names in basketball have joined forces this year, fulfilling their missions of providing nutrition to every Filipino home through sports. The Alaska Milk Corporation, the country's pioneer in sports development programs, has forged a partnership with none other than the most famous basketball league in the world – the National Basketball Association, through its Jr. NBA program.

Aiming to have a more active involvement in athletic development, Alaska Milk does not only want to sponsor basketball programs, but rather "carry" them, through the creation of the Alaska Sports Development Program, which includes among others the Alaska Power Camp and the Alaska Football Cup. And in ensuring that these programs remain sustainable, professionally-run, and competent in the training and shaping of the country's future athletes, Alaska has also partnered with the Philippine Basketball Association through its Jr. NBA program.

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The Alaska-Jr. NBA partnership was formally announced last January 18, and soon after, the Alaska leg of the Coaches clinic was held, gathering almost two hundred coaches from the Philippine Basketball Association. The second clinic, open to both basketball girls of basketball players, are currently ongoing, led by Alaska Power Camp Director Joey Landrimao, along with Head Trainer, the Cebu Camp Director, and Dirty Sanchez.

By March 2011, Regional Basketball Camps have already been held in Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, and Legazpi, gathering together boys ages 10 to 14 years old. Aside from teaching the young boys the values of Determination, Discipline, and Teamwork, the camps aim to select forty (40) of the best participants to join the Jr. National Training Camp, which will be held from April 8 to 11.

Beginning April 1, the 2011 Alaska Basketball Power Camp shall kick off in three major cities, namely Cebu, Davao, and Manila. Coach Noel Comsti in Cebu, and Coach Topex Robinson in Subic. These

shall serve as special selection camps, where ten (10) Power Camp students shall be chosen to participate in the Jr. NBA National Training Camp, together with the forty (40) chosen participants from the Regional Selection Camps.

From the fifty (50) participants of the Jr. NBA National Training Camp, ten (10) players will be chosen to form the Jr. NBA Philippine All-Star Team. This team shall be sent abroad for an authentic NBA experience, including the opportunity to play against a team of NBA All-Star Teams from other countries.

Through the Alaska-Jr. NBA partnership, Alaska Milk impacts the values of Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Attitude, and Camaraderie to young athletes. Throughout the duration of the basketball camps, Alaska makes sure that the kids learn the importance of building character, and that the values learned in sports can be applied in real life. Basketball is not just a game, but a gift on a silver platter. True success comes from within, and the achievement of one's goals can only be earned through hard work and determination. Alaska Milk Corporation is proud to have that identity thanks as the country's leader in the development of national sports programs, in line with its mission of providing nutrition to every Filipino family, and the right time of having these young children a shot at fulfilling their dreams.

2011 Jr. NBA Philippine All-Star Team:

1. Miguel Constantino
2. Justin Dhon Stevens
3. Alfred Espiritu
4. Rolan Lorenzo Perez
5. Ryan Lorenzo Pepperell
6. Jamal Lim
7. Lorenzo Fernando Navarro
8. Dawn Kenneth Cortes
9. Timothy John Tabada
10. Ronaldo Thomas Gamming

Special Awards:

Alaska Youth Sports Ambassador:

Jr. NBA Alaska Coach of the Year:

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavales
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dulnuan

SPORTS

Talk 'N Text sweeps Air21

By Marvin B. Castillo

JUST LIKE in the first two games, Talk 'N Text proved too much for Air21 to handle as the Tropang Texters sealed a shot at a second straight PBA title after shaking out the Express in three games of their Commissioner's Cup semifinal series.

Jhaz Datu scored 20 points, Jimmy Alapag sentenced 17 and Larry Fonacier chipped in with 14 as the Texters rolled by 12 early before leading as many as 20 points in a 118-109 victory for a 3-0 series win at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

After a tournament-opening loss, the Texters won their 11th straight game and are awaiting the winner of the Barangay Ginebra versus Smart Gilas series, which the Gin Kings lead, 2-1, on a fifth series tie.

The Nationals stayed alive later in the night, using a hot third quarter to break away and take a 100-80 victory over the Gin Kings. Game 5 is slated on Easter Sunday at 4 p.m. also at the Big Dome.

Datu

20 Cone scored 14 of his 20 points in the third as Smart Gilas evened it at three apiece.

"We took a big, deep breath at the start of the series to keep pushing until the final buzzer," Texters coach Chot Reyes said after booking the 12th title series appearance of his career.

Talk 'N Text 118—Datu 20, Alapag 17, Ayaay 15, Hilario 13, Pinto 8, Castro 7, Reyes 7, De Ocampo 7, Casio 6, Cruz 4, Lalata 0

Air21 109—Asoy 26, Andrews 22, Dagat 21, Vargas 8, Calderon 7, Reyes 7, Sapida 5, Ramos 5, Pena 2, Jumilla 0, Arana 0, Arao 0, Lacsina 0

Quarters: 31-27, 61-48, 79-68, 118-109

Second Game

Talk 'N Text 106—Castro 20, Ayaay 19, Hilario 15, Alapag 13, Datu 12, Lalata 7, Pinto 7, Dagat 5, Pena 2, Jumilla 2, Cruz 2, Reyes 0, Arana 0, Arao 0, Lacsina 0

Air21 98—Asoy 26, Andrews 22, Vargas 15, De Ocampo 13, Cone 12, Calderon 7, Reyes 7, Sapida 3, Ramos 0, Pena 0, Jumilla 0, Arana 0, Arao 0, Lacsina 0

Quarters: 19-23, 51-46, 74-67, 106-98

LARRY Fonacier (right) and the Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters shun the door on Leo Avenido and the Air21 Express. RAMON DIAZ-ARGO

Etheridge to sign new deal

By Cedrik F. Tupas

FILIPINO-BRITISH goalie Neil Etheridge is expected to sign a fresh deal this week that will keep him with English Premiere League side Fulham for the next two years.

It will be the longest contract in the budding career of the 22-year old Ateneo keeper, who was first called up to the Philippine Azkals lineup in 2010 but was limited to the first seven UAAP games of his career after he was arrested for allegedly hitting a security guard outside a Makati bar.

He was subsequently suspended by the UAAP for the rest of the season.

"I'm happy to be signing a new two-year deal at Fulham," Etheridge said in a message to the Inquirer.

"I have been working for this all year, now I have more stability in my contract which allows me to go out on loan and experience other teams."

Etheridge played 11 times for the reserves all season over the past six months and was a consistent performer in the Barclay Cup last year and the Ateneo-Philippine Cup qualifying tournament last month.

Based in London, Fulham, owned by Shirak businessman Mohammed Al Fayed and managed by former Manchester United star Mark Hughes, has been recommended by Etheridge's trainers to attend his matches with the national side, especially last December during the Suzuki Cup.

"Fulham have always been good to me and now I can slowly repay the favor by being a larger part of their first team," Etheridge added.

Azkals manager Dan Palami welcomed the development in Etheridge's career, saying the goalkeeper's stay at Fulham will only develop him further and benefit the national team.

Lady Stags bring back V-League star Bualee

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SAN SEBASTIAN has recalled Thai import Jeng Bualee in a bid to reverse its fortunes in the Shakey's V-League Season 9 First Conference.

Pitching in three shots, the Lady Stags face the Banawe Li-ao Eagles on Sunday and that will determine which team takes the remaining quarterfinal berth in Group A.

The prospect of the Lady Stags getting eliminated early in the tourney must seemed far-fetched at the start as they have consistently combed the semifinals in past seasons.

But the reigning NCAA champions have been groping for form, opening up their campaign with a stunning four-set defeat to Santo Rosario U of Cebu that was followed by losses to Ateneo and Letrans.

Adding to their woes was the subsequent injury sustained by lead attacker Joy Bualee in the loss to Southwesterners.

The 5-foot-11 import of the league's top scorer last season, will replace Cherry Macaranggay in the San Sebastian lineup.

San Sebastian coach Roger Gonzaga sees no problem with Bualee fitting in with the Lady Stags having played for them in each of the last four seasons.

Bualee, who led the Lady Stags to their championship appearance, is clocking against Adamson in the second conference last season, will be playing in her seventh conference with San Sebastian.

THE Suba siblings raise their fists after crossing the finish line.

Suba siblings dominate Petron karting

BROTHERS Vi and Ali Suba of Kera Cloating proved the power of teamwork as they posted a 1-2 finish in the second leg of the 2011 Petron Karting Super Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

It was a solid inside-for-the-top spot through out for a solid defensive strategy steered the Subas, sons of a racing enthusiast, to their leg spot finishes in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

After wresting the top spots midway of the final race, the Subas stayed close behind each other and blocked all opportunities for the trailed drivers, including defending champion Stefano Manolo of Manasville-bas Miguel Carey and Baby Benito of BradyShare, to overtake.

Ali, who started sixth, completed the race in 12 minutes and 57.127 seconds to capture both the ROE Senior and INDO Overall titles.

Ali clocked in 0.116 seconds later to finish runner-up in the ROE Overall division and bag the MDK Junior crown.

Marcelo Fusing teammates Daniel Manuela of Lobosta Distiller and Stefano Manolo ruled third and fourth, respectively, while Juba Tandia of BradyShare placed fifth.

Manuela secured top runner-up in the ROE Junior division over the more experienced Ivanes Reyes of Jet Racing.

Sharing fun moments with the Younghusbands

Lejano tops Pangasinan shootfest

ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN— Former World Shoot champion Jenilyn "Jag" Lejano led more than 300 practical shooters from different gun clubs who saw action in the Alaminos Gold La Festival Shootfest held recently at the Pinadbod Isabu Practical Shooters Association firing range here.

Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza fired the ceremonial shot to formally open the competition that drew the likes of Lejano, the 2008 Provincial Practical Shooting Confederation champion.

ALAMINOS CITY Mayor Hernani Braganza (center) fires the ceremonial shot.

The two-day shootfest was a Level II event sanctioned by the Philippine Practical Shooting Association, the first to be staged in the city.

Lejano went on to stamp his class in the production division; Boga Bonal in emerged standard division champion; Enrique Clemente topped the open division while Jose Bonilla was here in the modified class.

STI seizes solo CDL lead

STI SCORED back-to-back victories to grab the solo lead in the Sandugo Collegiate Development League last Monday at the Royal Mondial Coliseum.

It stole the 82-80 victory over College-in-Sta. Monica last year's NCRAA champions, gave STI a fourth straight victory.

Trailing 25-34 at half-time, STI exploded in the second half, led by its top scorer that Mondales who scored 12 points on top of their assists and was clad to pull out the victory over the lead-fighting CSM.

STI picked up its third win last Saturday, beating base-saved standing Technical Institute of the Philippines, 98-92, to send TIP to a 3-4 win-loss record.

The first game last Monday saw Adamson moving upto third with a 5-2 mark as it outlasted Eastern University 81-61.

SPORTSWATCH

Pakitang Gilas rules elims

THE PBA Pakitang Gilas came back from a 13-point first quarter deficit to hand out an 82-74 win over Ateneo on Saturday for a sweep of the invitational Philippine Basketball League classification round at the Filoteang gym in Marikina City.

Cedell Tapias of the Ateneo scored all the nine points in the fourth quarter, making three triples that undercut the Scribes' lead to 76-66 with 4:39 remaining.

The Pakitang Gilas squad, headed by the PBA San Miguel Corp.-Energen 3X3 Youth coach Ryan Pineda and ACCEL, claimed top spot in Group A with the victory.

Eric Uy represented with 19 points for Pakitang Gilas, while Christian Tavera and Mark Salvoro added 17 and 16 points, respectively, for Pakitang Gilas, which will play the No. 4 team in Group B at the start of the quarterfinals slated early next month.

GOLF CHAMPS: Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Golf Club receive their trophy from Women's Golf Association of the Philippines president Ria Cruz (second from left). Combining Ladies bracket president Charling Villar (fourth from left), Castlebeng general manager Luigi Tuki (fifth from left) after topping the 44th Domingo Capeli golf tournament at Campbell's scenic course recently. They are (from left) Ateneans Salvador, Pilar Robles, skipper Ruben Amparo, Nilo Salvio, Lolly Tirondel, Rosie Lagera and Lori Catoli.

Aplus METRO
Lira Alabanza S. Ulanday

NBI arrests 2 suspected drug mules

SUSPECTED drugs couriers Ramchanaphon Chandramukhan from Thailand (left) and Kyaw Soe Paing, a native of Papua New Guinea, are indicted up at the National Bureau of Investigation. LEO UDTOHAN

By Jayson T. Gonzales

INTERNATIONAL drug syndicates are now using foreigners to smuggle drugs into and out of the country, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Yesterday, the NBI and Vice President Jejomar Binay presented to media two foreigners who allegedly served as couriers for the West African Drug Syndicate (WADS).

Ramchanaphon Chandramukhan, a Thai woman, and Kiatsuro Pacol, a man from Papua New Guinea, were arrested by members of the NBI Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force in Malate, Manila, on Tuesday afternoon.

The two had been under surveillance since April 14 as the Interpol-Philippine Desk at the NBI received reports that Ramchanaphon would be smuggling cocaine into and out of the country.

The operation established the involvement of other nationalities as drug couriers for WADS operations in lieu of Nigerian drug couriers to avoid detection, a NBI statement said.

"We noticed the shift to using foreigners to smuggle drugs outside [the country] because it would be harder for Filipinos to leave the country," NBI Undersecretary (OIC) Isidro Bon Jonathan Gaikon said in an interview.

The NBI said Ramchanaphon arrived in Manila on April 5 while Pacol flew in three days later. Through their stayed in separate rooms at the hotel, the NBI noted that Ramchanaphon frequently visited Pacol in his room.

On April 19, the Thai woman was arrested in Pacol's room after the NBI caught him coming out of a convenience store with a package.

The package was found to contain one kilo of cocaine worth P5 million in addition to packaging tape and a plastic bag.

The NBI said they believed that the pair was planning to place the drug into capsules to avoid detection.

The two underwent inquest proceedings yesterday after cases on charges of conspiring to transport illegal drugs under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Operations of MRT, LRT, PNR suspended

By Paolo G. Montecillo

METRO Manila's rail lines will temporarily stop running to give way to annual maintenance checks during the Holy Week break, their operators have announced.

Starting Monday, Thursday (April 22) —the operations of the Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2, the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Philippine National Railways (PNR) will be suspended.

The PNR franchises Tutuban in Manila to Alabang, Muntinlupa, while trains normal operations in Metro Manila. Both the LRT and MRT, however, will start operations on Monday (April 25).

The train lines' operators said they would take advantage of the Holy Week break when most people in the metropolis are either out of town or remain in their homes.

"The suspension of the PNR's regular operation will be used by the annual maintenance of its rolling stock to better serve its related commerce," the PNR management said in a statement.

In a separate statement, LRT Administrator Reynaldo Rodriguez said the two train lines will resume normal operations at 5 a.m. on April 25.

The LRT Line 1, which runs from Baclaran, Pasay City, to Roosevelt Avenue in Quezon City, carries over half a million passengers a day.

The LRT Line 2, currently the country's newest train line, ferries people from Recto in Manila to Santolan in Marikina. It carries over 200,000 passengers a day.

The MRT line, meanwhile, is the most congested train line in Metro Manila, carrying about half a million passengers on EDSA daily, above its designated capacity of 350,000 passengers.

Makati City gov't wants fire victims to move

THE FIRE that razed some 900 houses and left around 2,500 families homeless in Makati City on Tuesday was caused by an electrical short circuit.

According to Makati Fire marshal Ricardo Dyogilan, a wire short in one of the houses at the Lapwal Compound in Guadalupe Nuevo had plugged a cell phone charger in a defective power outlet, causing sparks that led to the fire which quickly spread to other structures in the depressed community.

At least nine people suffered minor wounds and burns with the estimated cost of damages to the property pegged at P30 million, Dyogilan said.

Some of the affected families sought shelter in barangay covered courts, public schools and the nearby Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish church.

Others were taken to the San Carlos seminary where the covered court was turned into an evacuation center.

When the inspectors went to the residency the fire victims were waiting for temporary shelter organizations in Guadalupe Nuevo, Barangay Poblacion and elsewhere. When contacted asked if they would go back to their burned homes, all said they had to since they had nowhere else to go.

The Makati City government, meanwhile, encouraged the affected families to volunteer to relocate either to the MAKES Ganad Kalinga Village in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, or the one in Calauan, Laguna.

"We are strongly urging them to volunteer. We feel that the area can no longer be safe," said Mayor Jejomar Binay Jr. "Those who risked that they would continue to receive the benefits that Binay as resident of Makati City.

However, some residents said they did not want to move because the area being offered by the city government were far from where their work or the schools their children attend.

Binay said he had asked city officials to check whether it was still safe to allow settlers to go back to the compound due to the lack of basic sanitation facilities.

He added that he had also instructed the city engineering department to inspect the structural soundness of billboards and other structures affected by the fire in the area.

In Montalbapan City, a house burned down in a poor village prior the afternoon.

The murdered Roderick Apalit said the fire broke out in the house of Elmer Maldonado on Calabagan Street in Apalit Alabang at 12:30 p.m.

It reached the first alarm before it was put out at 1:42 p.m.

Quoting the Malabanan barangay homeboy, Apalit said, a "candidate" named was heard before smoke was seen billow-

Long walk to Antipolo a Lenten tradition

By Nina Calleja

MARIKO Marquinez, a resident, has been making a pilgrimage to Antipolo City for the past 20 years. But his will not be going by himself.

Every Maundy Thursday, thousands of devotees—most of them students—walk from the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong City to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo City (about

Navotas native renews father's vow of sacrifice for Holy Week

By Kristine Felicia Mangunay

FOR YEARS, a boy numbed as his cancer-stricken father whipped himself on the back in the streets to seek absolution for the Holy Week.

A few years later, the boy...now a man—lay face down for the first time on the same road.

The lashes on his thighs were nothing to those in the scorching heat, he reckoned, he mended to mend his devotion to penance of his father declared in his blood.

"My God, Jesus Christ, You have made this journey to die for me with love unmeasurable..." Tata Tarsilio, then 24, chanted as he made his way through the streets of Tanza in Navotas City.

Seven years later, the Navotas-born devout Catholic who belongs to a family of pseudo still continues to do penance every Maundy Thursday.

Cut short

While many people take the opportunity to hit the beaches or go on popular tourist spots, the 31-year-old father of one has made a personal vow to reside, as for him father Francisco's remaining 18 years of penitence, cut short by his untimely death in 1994.

"He made a vow to do his Holy Week sacrifice for 28 years. When he died, he was able to complete only 10. I promised before his grave that I would carry on," said Tarsilio, an encoder in the parish office of San Bartolome Church in Malabon City.

The years he has dedicated to fulfilling his promise illustrate Tarsilio's love for his father who died of lung cancer at 61.

Same route

"I take the same route he took, from Tanza Kaulayan, I marvel until I reach Barangka Drive in Navotas," Tarsilio said. The journey takes him approximately two hours, including the stops he makes along the way.

All in all, Tarsilio endures 240 lashes in every step, 120 in depict the bantamal bit of the cross he sacrifice bore, and another 120 for the vertical line.

"Umaka 14 steps. Each post symbolizes one Station of the Cross. When I get to my final destination, I receive another 240 lashes," he explained.

Tarsilio said he and his father were both 24 years old when they started their yearly act of atonement.

"I noticed only now that we were the same age when we started," he told the Inquirer.

He hastened to say that this was only a coincidence. Even though he promised to carry on upon his father's death, it took him another 11 years before he got around to it since he got married in 2007.

For 18 years now, Tarsilio has kept for the long narrow stick that has inflicted many wounds on his father's buttocks and thighs, taking it out only every Maundy Thursday.

"Memories of my father come back to me every time I cut it, by the same stick he used back then," he said.

Bruised body

Tarsilio admitted that he was in pain the first time he was whipped. After the ritual, he could hardly move for a day as parts of his thighs and buttocks were filled with bruises and wounds.

It took a week before he could move normally again.

"It's really a sacrifice," he said.

Tarsilio added that although his main intention in inflicting pain on his body was to honor his father, the "holy act" also allows him to reflect on the sacrifices Jesus Christ himself had to endure to save mankind.

"It is also a humble way of asking for forgiveness for my sins. The feeling is ethereal after you have done it," he said, adding that blessings flow abundantly for him and his family every time he completes his act of penance.

Tarsilio, however, said he does not want his children, Francisco Jr., 6, and Francis Dylan, 5, to follow in his footsteps.

He added that he has never told them what he does every Maundy Thursday. He vows to his fiancée, Jessa Mae Ardo, to allow his children to choose their own faith.

"It's easier to do the penitence when the people around you don't know who you are," he explained.

However, he was quick to say that he would not put his foot down should any of his sons decide to take the same path.

No control

"It will still be their decision. I don't have any control over their hearts and minds," he said.

As Tarsilio prepares himself for his yearly act of sacrifice, his thoughts rest on his father whom he still considers his "idol," 16 years after his death.

"On that day, in my heart I know his memory, as that of Christ, will never leave me," he said.

FRANCISCO: Tarsilio (above) drives a motorcycle with his son, Tere, (standing, beside him. The photo was taken during the time there is Tanza, Navotas. At right, Tere poses with his son of his sons, Francisco Jr., who he named after his father.

Makati City . . .

From page A17

ing from a chandelier.

Agnelo added that they had yet to determine the cause of the fire although it may have been caused by an electrical short circuit.

The value of damage in property was also still under investigation although the fire marshal said it could run into millions of pesos. Tina G. Santos and Anna Bri'Ena Pangalangan

Abstentions for the Holy Week

HOLD on to sinful desires this Holy Week, why not abstain from negative thoughts or deeds for three days...

Friday, Saturday and Sunday?

Instead of harboring thoughts of revenge, forgive the person or persons who have done you wrong.

Instead of criticizing, give praises liberally.

Instead of concentrating suspicion, give trust.

Instead of hate, love.

You will find that good things will start happening.

George Stone, preacher at the Temple of Power, Prosperity and Peace (TOPPP), says you become a magnet of good fortune and good health when you donate yourself of negative emotions.

ON TARGET

Eastern Tacloban

The Department of Justice has started investigating the alleged participation of an Army officer in the disappearance of Jonas Burgos, son of press freedom icon Joe Burgos.

First Lt. Harry Baliaga Jr. of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) No. 15 allegedly led the abduction of the young Burgos four years ago at a Quezon City mall.

Cavite Provincial Prosecutor Manuel Velasco and Deputy Director Rey Saraos told of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have been directed to coordinate with the Commission on Human Rights to investigate Baliaga.

If I were Baliaga, I would be thinking in my hands because Sabanes and Esmeralda are supposedly perfect.

A cannery collector in Mindanao owns mansions, 24 cars and an orchard farm on a union of more than 700,000 a month.

The collector allegedly owns two newly built mansions in the South Royal Plaza, a subdivision for millionaires in Davao City and in the Palm Mountain Resort, and a 5.5-hectare farm planted to pineapples, bananas and mangoes.

The customs official's cars include a Toyota Land Cruiser, Fortuner, Ford Explorer, Honda City, Nissan Altis sedan, Honda City sedan and a Honda hatchback, according to Department of Finance investigators.

LBC, the company that advertises itself as "Hari ng Padala" (king of deliveries), is not what it claims to be.

Ask Jaby Warren Benitez who had his passport delivered by the company from Cagayan de Oro City to its Mall of Asia branch in Manila.

You know where Benitez's passport ended up? At the LBC office in Sikatuna, Cuenca province!

Not only was it delivered to the wrong office, the LBC-filing people gave the passport to the wrong person who claimed it!

Some say LBC means Lost Baggage Corp.

METROBRIEFS

See-of missing woman asks for help

HEIDY Flores

HEIDY Flores, 43, a native of Catarman, Camarines Sur, was last seen on April 7 when she left the house of Joaquin Jose Rabin no. 4 Block 225, Home on Mayo Street, Lupo, Quezon City. Flores, who works as a housemaid, had left the house in her clothes at a nearby "sikip-sikip" store. Those with information about her whereabouts can call her son, Jerome Flores, at 0909-3091151.

Altar of Repose unveiled today in Ermita Church

THE FAITHFUL are invited to visit the Ermita Church on Wednesday, Thursday to see the Altar of Repose, a place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept and where the faithful congregate for adoration and worship. The altar is designed by Tony Antonio, an interior designer, furniture maker and member of church design. Antonio has been donating a different Altar of Repose for the past 26 years. "It is my yearly commitment to the King of Kings, a work of love," says the maker of papal crosiers for Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II who both visited Ermita Church. A procession bringing the Eucharist from the main altar of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception to the altar of repose will be led by Archbishop Antonio Ledesma S.J. on Holy Thursday, the benefit of parishioners. Contact the Ermita Church for the schedule at 5222794.

Summer writing workshop at UP Village

"WRITING and Living In Summer Workshop on Creative Living," a short course on writing for tweens, teens and the young at heart to be handled by Rebeth Lizarga and Nina Lucas will be offered from April 25 to 30, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kasa Pinoy Conservatory at 86 Magsaysay St., UP Village, Quezon City. There are 25 slots available for the workshop for a fee of P4,000. This includes writing materials, lunch, healthy snacks and a certificate of appreciation. Reserve at yeahtree store with Rebeth at 0916-2421452 "Ninja at 0929-8888222 or visit Kasa PinoyCook at 4040550. If you can't make it on these dates, there will be another workshop on May 2 to 7, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Camp Langenegger's Green Belly at 29 Magsaysay St., Boston City.

Long walk . . .

From page A17

honors the 383-year-old image of the Virgin Mary.

The journey takes around five to eight hours to complete. Along the way, participants in the procession pray to seek forgiveness for their sins or to seek for the fulfillment of a dream.

"For any devotee, the night long thoroughly exhausting walk is nothing," Manipedron told the Inquirer.

He was just in his corner when he went on his first "penitential walk" in the 1990s. At that time, he said he did it "just for amusement" since his friends were his companions on the road.

But as the years went on, the long walk became more of a tradition for Manipedron.

"I don't often make a wish that I ask God to grant although I always pray for good health for my family," he said.

Peggy Cabisang, a 55-year-old resident of Quezon City who also goes on the annual penitential walk credits the exercise his children enjoy to his devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

Cabisang has three daughters and a son whom he put through college by peddling food to the streets and driving a tricycle.

"I now have a banker, a pediatrician, a teacher and a technician in the family. They all have decent jobs," he said.

Mega Bayelonte de Guzman, the rector of the national shrine, said that from Maundy Thursday until Good Friday, an estimate 2.7 million people visit the church.

The pilgrims come from different parts of Metro Manila and as far away as the provinces of Batangas, Laguna and Cavite.

"For them, the long walk is part of their penitence and sacrifices which wash away their sins and renew them devotion ... We worship not only with our lips, without hesitation with all our whole body," De Guzman said.

"The longer we walk, the bigger our sacrifice and the more effective our prayers are," he added.

The image of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage was brought to the Philippines in 1646 by the Galleon El Millagrio which traveled from Acapulco in Mexico to the Philippines.

De Guzman said the people at the time believed that the safe arrival of the galleon was attributed to the presence of the image of Mary on board the ship.

Antipolo has become the image's sanctuary, but during World War II, it was moved to a more secure location in Quiapo.

It was then brought back to the Antipolo Church as a preservation that would be replicated every year on Maundy Thursday.

A factor of the shrine for eight years, De Guzman said the number of pilgrims has not decreased even with the passage of time.

He said the other priests have just one wish: A stronger faith for the faithful and their more active participation in Church activities.

THE NATIONAL Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo City (above) where the image of the Blessed Virgin (right) is found.

PHOTOS BY NINA CALLAR

Pope's shrink film stirs row in Italy

VATICAN CITY—A new film about a priest-prone pope who unveils a psychoanalyst has divided Italy's Catholics, with a call for its boycott coming from the pages of an influential Vatican newspaper.

Nothing in the Sorrentino-Italy-Vatican import lofted over the head of Italian movie-agency Aiff.

The film comes just ahead of Easter, on Sunday, and the beatification ceremony in the Vatican on May 1 that will elect late Pope John Paul II on the path to sainthood.

The film "Habemus Papam" (We have a Pope) — the mob cry which Jesus heralded his Church," and time-

adding that "even priests" had shocked the film after an in-house screening on Friday "with the curious justification that Moretti could have been sincere." "Why should we support financially that which offends our religious?" said Avvo, who writes "letters" for the Vatican on Italian news agency Aiff.

The film comes just ahead of Easter, on Sunday, and the beatification ceremony in the Vatican on May 1 that will elect late Pope John Paul II on the path to sainthood.

The film "Habemus Papam" (We have a Pope) — the mob cry which Jesus heralded his Church," and time-

comer Pope is being shown in 447 cinemas and grossed 1.3 million euros ($1.9 million) over the weekend—receiving mostly positive reviews.

Jesuit journal Civiltà Cattolica praised the film and Vatican Radio said that it contained "no wrong notes" while Pope-friendly Italian editorial does not mean the Italian bishops' paper) shares his views and some observers are hoping the sentiment does not go too further.

"It would be embarrassing ... This film is respectful. It has to be taken as the light comedy that it is," Vatican expert Luigi Accattoli told AFP.

Sandro Magister, another Vatican expert, said there are doubts over the film but an official condemnation from Church authorities.

"If there was to be one, it would only help the producers. He would be very happy with a Catholic outrage at the "Da Vinci Code" by Ron Howard in 2006 helped turn it into a blockbuster.

Asked about the controversy in an interview to RAI television, Moretti said: "There is freedom of expression in any work, I am not commenting." The director then quipped: "People can boycott it after seeing it!"

Many commentators have lauded a film that touches a raw nerve in the post.

Pope Benedict XVI said last October to the papacy in 2005, left like "a gulf-stricken" and the Pope John Paul I, who died just 33 days after being elected in 1978, told his advisers he did not want to accept the heavy burden.

But for the end they feels could not rely on to a charge that the faithful believe is divinely-inspired—unlike the Pope in the film who resigns his duties.

The head of the Catholic Association of Cinema Producers, Roberto Stock, criticized "Moretti's willingness to introduce psychoanalysis in the Vatican." He deplored the film for showing "faith cannot resist the temptation of weakness." "The story does not talk about faith," Bonivento.

AFP

EARTH DAY: Students pose for a photo with a globe during a campaign to mark World Earth Day in a middle school in Dezhou, Jinggu province, China on April 19. World Earth Day falls on April 22 every year. XINHUA/AFP

Malaysia sends 66 effeminate boys to camp

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian authorities have sent 66 Muslim schoolboys identified by teachers as effeminate to a four-day camp where they will receive counselling to curb their "feminine" ways to discourage them from being gay, an official said Tuesday.

Gay rights advocates decried the measure as a symptom of widespread homophobia in this Muslim-majority country where gay sex is illegal.

The boys between 13 and 17 years old reported Monday for what is officially being called a "self-development course" after their schoolteachers in Terengganu state identified them as students who displayed effeminate mannerisms, said Rusnah Daud, the state's education director.

They will undergo religious and motivational classes and physical guidance, Rusnah said. He declined to give further details.

The camp is meant "to guide them back to the right path in life before they reach a point of no return," Rusnah told The Associated Press (AP). "Such effeminate behavior is unnatural and will affect their studies and their future."

It is the first such program in Terengganu, a conservative state. Over the years, Terengganu's officials have held programs aimed at promoting Muslim morality such as offering free honeymoons to ones the marriages of couples considering divorce.

Rusnah denied the boys were compelled to attend the camp, saying they were simply "invited" to do so. After 3 days, their teachers and parents will meet, he said to discuss advising them.

"It is not an overnight cure," he said. "We can't force the boys to change, but we want them to know what their choices are in life. Some effeminate boys end up as a transvestite or a homosexual, but we want to do our best to limit this."

Hang Khee Tuk, the co-founder of a Malaysian sexual rights awareness group, called the camp "outrageous."

"If are don't do anything to stop the out of homophobia ... I worry it may get worse," he said.

Gay Malaysians say they have direct memories from government policies such as a law that makes sodomy punishable by 20 years in prison. The law is seldom used selectively enforced, but some states also impose jail terms for public cross-dressing.

Last year, a young gay Malaysian who posted a Youtube clip defending his sexuality received online death threats. Government authorities accused him of insulting Islam, though no official action was taken.

AP

Attractive men have long … ring fingers, says British study

PARIS—The longer a man's fourth or ring finger is compared to his index finger, the more likely he is to be judged attractive by women, according to a study released Wednesday.

The results, published in the British Royal Society's journal Biological Sciences, unveil massive links between total exposure of males to hormones, the development of certain physical traits, and attractiveness to the opposite sex.

It also adds to a growing body of research—conducted under the banner of evolutionary psychology—suggesting that the diverse of human behavior are found, more than previously suspected, in "nature" rather than "nurture." Earlier studies have identified a direct correlation between the length of the second finger, especially of the right hand, is a reliable indicator of the extent a man was exposed to testosterone while still in the womb.

The longer the gap between a longer ring finger and a shorter index, the greater the likely impact of the hormone.

For the new study, scientists led by Camille Bedrosi of the University of Geneva designed an experiment to find out if women are drawn to the telltale signs of high testosterone levels in men—a symmetrical face, a deeper voice, a particular body odor—who have the most "masculine" fingers configuration.

More than 69 women university students between 18 and 30 were asked to pick out the most attractive male faces, and voice selected in evaluate them for masculinity and intelligence.

Another groups of women listened to recordings of the male voices, and smelled samples of their body odour, taken from cotton pads worn under the arm for 24 hours.

"The aim was to understand what makes a man attractive," and whether at least some of these qualities "are in part conditioned by the foetal environment," Bedrosi said in an interview.

For the second trial, the results were unambiguous. "The longer the ring finger compared to the index—that is, the greater the exposure to testosterone—the more attractive the face was rated," she said by phone.

"We also found that arm-sweat and symmetry in the face are highly correlated. Such a preference might have evolved to honor a female's choice of reproductive success through assessing traits a man's ex-in the partner, she said.

Surprisingly, however, scientists did not consistently find the same men to "masculine." How did their preference for voice or odour correspond to the longer ring finger index.

"There wasn't any relation between the 2D:4D"—2nd digit: 4th digit,—"voice and the evidence of the women in odor," Bedrosi said.

One reason, she speculated, may be that voice and body odor are more dependent on fluctuating levels of adult testosterone than on prenatal testosterone.

The ring-index finger ratio has also been seen to be a useful indicator for gauging the risk of prostate cancer, likewise tied to high levels of testosterone. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Syria lifts state of emergency

DEPUTY—Syria's government approved lifting the country's nearly 50-year-old state of emergency Tuesday to meet a key demand of antigovernment protesters, but opposition leaders dismissed it as an attempt by President Bashar Assad to claim reforms he has made while the bloody crackdown on dissent continues. The decision to end emergency laws came following a meeting of the ruling Baath party's top body to set Assad's tenure and his regime-warning that the demands for more reforms and "after-war transition" chanted thousands of people in the southern city of Deraa and coastal town of Banias, according to witnesses. A prominent Syrian writer Yassin Haj Saleh, who spent 16 years in jail for his links to a pro-democracy group, claimed Assad was "reaching out to 'reconcile' to gain time" by removing emergency rules, which gives authorities broad powers to detain people without charge and ban rallies and meetings.

AP

Pakistan test-fires new missile

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's military says it has test-fired a newly developed surface-to-surface missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead. A military statement says the "NR" missile was successfully launched from an undisclosed location on Tuesday. It says the missile has a range of 60 kilometers and runs on a modern and high accuracy. Pakistan routinely test-fires what it claims are indigenously developed short and long-range missiles capable of carrying the country's nuclear weapons. The international community closely watches Pakistan's weapons program because the nation has fought three wars with its nuclear-armed neighbor, India, since 1947.

AP

Singapore dissolves parliament

SINGAPORE—Singapore's president dissolved Parliament on Tuesday, triggering a general election in which the ruling party will seek to extend its rule for decades to come. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong advised President Dr Sellmon to dissolve the legislature. Lee's People's Action Party has been in power since 1959 and is expected to maintain a strong majority in the new polls. The opposition controlled 82 of the 84 seats in the outgoing Parliament. It would not likely opposition will likely challenge the PAP on most voting districts, seeking to capitalize on voter discontent with soaring housing costs and a surge in foreign workers. Voting will take place May 7. Political parties must announce which districts candidates will contest by midnight 27.

AP

846 killed in Egypt protests

CAIRO—At least 846 Egyptians died in the nearly three-week-long popular uprising that toppled long-serving President Hosni Mubarak and another the region, a government-led fact-finding mission announced Tuesday. In their report, the panel of judges described police forces shooting live ammunition at the head and chest with the announcement and pre-planned to death toll more than twice that of previous official estimates. "The fatalities were due to firing bullets at the head and the chest," the report read, adding that "a huge number of eye injuries," blind fatalities, and wounds with lost their sight. Earlier official estimates had put the toll from the days of demonstrations, in order to celebrate a battled bloody a most ingrown of riot police. AFP

17 killed in India helicopter crash

NEW DELHI—A helicopter hit ground and burst into flames on Tuesday, killing 17 people, including 11 senior officials, in the northern state of Uttarakhand, police said. The Mi-17 helicopter with 22 people on board was trying to land in the Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand when it crashed, Deputy Inspector General Dinesh Kumar Mishra said. Among those killed were officials who were on a regular flight between Tehran and Kashmir, the capital of Assam state.

AP

Republic of the Philippines
Region V
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR
Office of the Provincial Government Center
Pili, Camarines Sures 4418

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY TO BID

The Provincial Government of Camarines Sur now invites to apply to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Rehabilitation of Learning and Education Facilities Program
Location	Various Barangays, Municipality of Nabua, Province of Camarines Sur

Scope of work:

1. Demolition of existing structures of the Casino Complex for the [illegible] with the Pili Bid Learning Center as defined by the Department of Education's Bureau of Rehabilitation Learning Facilities (DepEd-BRLF);
2. Conduct of all necessary training programs and workshops for the [illegible] and the beneficiaries of the livelihood projects, as well as [illegible] and [illegible] the implementation of the Program such as:
   a. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
   b. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
3. Supply of the required equipment, materials and accessories for the delivery and processing of [illegible] including their maintenance and technical support for the duration of the Program; and
4. Provision of IT services for the development, installation, implementation and configuration of the online and on-site learning platform including technical support and maintenance for the duration of the Program.

Approved Budget: **₱ 1,500,000.00**

DATE TO BE MADE	DATE
Deadline for Submission of Letter of Expression of Interest and Submission of Bidding Documents (per Instruction of the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee)	April 25, 2011 @ 09:00 a.m.
Pre-bid Conference	April 26, 2011 @ 09:00 a.m.
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility requirements, proposal and documents for bid opening	May 11, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m.

For more inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat Telephone No. 054-841-4822

The Bidding shall be conducted based on the procedures prescribed in Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The Province of Camarines Sur hereby reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, any minors any irregularity or technicality, and to waive it in any manner whatsoever, to maintain that advantageous to the Province in the interest of the best engineering solution. For more information, please refer to the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur. Public guidelines and procedures are observed in this matter.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO J. HIRAGA**
BAC - Chairperson

(PIA Sept 21, 2011)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone no. (02) 840-2000 loc. 2208
Direct Line: (02) 840-2208 Fax No.: (632) 840-1618

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) through its 2011 Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of **Five Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php5,200,000.00)** being the **ABC** to payments under the **supply and delivery of one (1) unit Hydrogeochemical Vertical Rotary Air Blast (VRAB) drilling rig** as project identified by PNOC EC Makiling-Banahaw Project Operations, Malitbog, Southern Leyte. Bids exceeding the said ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Lot Hydrogeochemical Vertical Rotary Air Blaster. Delivery of the Goods is required within [illegible] days from the receipt of Purchase Order. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility prescribed in the IRR of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC's Procurement Section and inspect the Bidding Documents at the above-address starting April 26, 2011 from Monday to Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the same date from the above-address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and PNOC EC's website, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

For purposes of clarifying issues, PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **April 28, 2011 @ 2:00 P.M.** at PNOC EC Board Room, Bldg. 2 Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bidders' bids must be delivered on three (3) copies to the above-address on or before **May 11, 2011, 2:00 P.M.** Late bids shall be automatically rejected immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For further information, please contact:

PNOC EC Procurement Section
c/o Ms. Glenda Z. Bartolome-Ita, Ind. Mgmt.
Bldg. 1 Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No.: (02) 479-0000 or 840-1614 Fax: (02) 840-1618
Email Address: gzbi@pnoc.ec.com.ph

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at **www.pnoc.ec.com.ph** and in the PHILGEPS website at **www.philgeps.net**

(Sgd.)
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PIA issue 21, 22, 23)

The WORLD

Libir Lawrence B. Hurera

Libya rebels plead for foreign troops

MISRATA—A rebel official in Libya's besieged city of Misrata pleaded for Britain and France to send troops to help fight Moammar Gadhafi's forces, while a son of the strongman said he was "very optimistic" his father's regime will prevail.

A senior member of Misrata's governing council, Nuri Abdallah Abdelsiet, said they were asking for the troops on the basis of "humanitarian principles, in the first request by an occupier for boots on the ground.

Previously, he told reporters, "we did not want any foreign soldiers in our country but now, as we face these crimes of Gadhafi, we are asking on the basis of humanitarian and Islamic principles for someone to come and stop the killing."

"Before we were asking for no foreign interference, but that was before Gadhafi used Grad rockets and planes. Now it's a life or death situation," Abdelsiet said, referring to Gadhafi and rebel forces engaged in fierce fighting in southern Misrata.

The city extended only hardly when State planes were heard overhead, but picked up intermittent gunfire.

The rebels in Misrata, which has been under siege for more than a month and sees hundreds killed, have no direct contact with coalition forces. Abdelsiet said the request was sent last week to the rebel Transitional National Council (TNC) in Benghazi, but there had yet been no reply.

Separately, Seif al-Islam, a son of Gadhafi, said he was confident the rebellion would fail.

"I am very optimistic and we will win," Seif said on Al-Jazeera television.

"The situation changes every day in favor (of) his regime. I'm a group of about 50 attending the television broadcast. He did not give details.

Seif vowed that his father's regime would "not seek revenge" against the rebels fighting for control.

But he warned that "the use of weapons and force will only be met by force and those who open the first red lines, set in 2007 (Gadhafi, Islam, more or (AUB) and initiated unity) will have to bear the consequences".

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said London would send 12 military advisers to rebel-held eastern Libya, but that they would not be involved in training or arming the rebels, to help in planning operations.

"They're not boots on the ground. It is not British ground (combat) forces going in ... There is going to be no ground invasion of Libya," Hague told BBC television.

Hague said the British advisers would help rebels develop organizational structures, communications and logistics, and coordinate humanitarian aid and medical supplies.

Libyan Foreign Minister Abdelati Laadeb told the BBC such a move would help his chances of peace in the country end "prolong" fighting. AFP

Libyan rebel fighters ride at the back of a pickup truck as rebel moment s are displayed along the western gate of Ajdabiya, Libya on Thursday

Japan mulls cordon around nuke plant

TOKYO—Authorities may, for the first time, but access to the evacuation zone around Japan's crippled nuclear plant, citing concerns Wednesday over radiation levels for residents who made by messengers check on their houses.

About 70,000-80,000 people were living in the 13-town and villages within 20 kilometers of the Fukushima Daiichi plant, which has been leaking radioactive at Hitachi 15 months quake and tsunami wrecked its power and cooling systems.

Virtually all left after being advised to do so, but some owns, mostly those retained, defying warnings from police who have set up roadblocks on only a few major roads in the area.

"We are considering setting up 'control areas' as an option be effectively limiting entry" to the zone, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan will meet with local officials and evacuees to discuss the proposed measure during a visit to the affected region Thursday, Kyodo said.

Most plan the measure as the plant appears to have stabilized somewhat, both residents and authorities are considering how to best weather a protracted evacuation. Residents have been demanding they be allowed to check their homes and collect belongings, while government officials are worried about radiation exposure.

Only a few warning signs, mainly about road resolutions, have been erected in the area so far. Genroku Sugiyama, a ruling Democratic Party lawmaker who lives in the area, said he was pessimistic that the proposed measure during a visit to the affected region Thursday, Kyodo said.

"I don't think the measures at the plant appear

IN THIS ISSUE

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- IPOPHL, SEC join hands to shield firms from piracy /B4

Editor Raoul B. Pascual ▲ Associate Editor Corrie S. Mallonga

BUSINESS

Ayala ventures into hydro power

Takes 70% stake in tie-up with Sta. Clara Power

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALA group is breaking into hydroelectric power generation in partnership with Sta. Clara Power Corp., an independent power producer specializing in run-of-the-river power plants.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Ayala Corp. managing director John Eric Francia said the conglomerate, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Multiple Power Inc. (MPI), has entered a joint venture with Sta. Clara for the development of run-of-the-river (ROR) hydroelectric power projects across the Philippines.

MPI will take a 70-percent stake in the venture and has committed an initial equity infusion of about P600 million.

Run-of-the-river hydroelectric power plant operations involve "borrowing" some river water to turn its kinetic energy into electricity and returning the same unpolluted water back into the river. "It is considered as green because it does not produce harmful emissions. Like other renewable power technologies, it is environment as it depends on the free energy of nature as fuel," Francia said.

Ayala president and chief operating officer Fernando Zobel de Ayala said: "This venture builds on our current portfolio of renewable energy assets, which focuses on solar, wind and biofuel power technologies. This is an important component of our plan to create a portfolio of power assets over the medium term that blends conventional and sustainable energy sources and contributes to the country's energy requirements."

The Ayala group, which previously shied away from businesses whose pricing is laden with regulatory risks, has now identified power generation as a key platform for future growth especially as demand for electricity is expected to rise in the years ahead. Since the Ayala group is still building expertise in this business, forging partnerships has been part of the strategy.

Ayala plans to build a portfolio of power generation assets that will include both renewable and conventional with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts over the next five years. The new hydroelectric power venture follows the company's recent partnership with Mitsubishi Corp. for solar power and its acquisition of half of the wind farm project of Northwind Power Development Corp. in Ilocos Norte.

AYALA B1

'Hot money' growth to slow down

By Michelle V. Rama

"HOT MONEY" inflows to the Philippines are expected to be manageable this year and even more so next year as the gradual recovery of advanced economies from the global recession in 2009 reopens the carry-trade investments to emerging markets.

This was the view of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which said reports from top economists in Philippine stocks, bonds and other securities or goes to the short term but only at a more modest pace.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said a decelerated growth in foreign "hot money" was favorable as this would ease the pressure on the central bank to intervene in the foreign exchange market to prevent the peso from appreciating too much.

He said the recent increase in interest rates in Europe and the move of the United States to step up the brakes in line to inject liquidity into its economy was concerned, such as through higher government spending and reduced rate cuts, would help attract more funds back to the industrialized world.

Tetangco said a gradual recovery of the US and European economies would also continue initiatives to see some of their funds in purchase securities issued from

BSP B1

SM PRIME Holdings Inc. vice chair Jose L. Cuisia Jr. and SM Prime president Hans T. Sy huddle before the start of the company's annual stockholders' meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Tuesday.

RAE J. ANDRES

PNOC subsidiary allots P900M for coal mine

By Amy R. Roma

THE BOARD of PNOC Exploration Corp. has approved a special budget of close to P900 million for the expansion of the Linadtop coal mine in Zamboanga Sibugay, an area said to produce the highest grade of coal quality in the country.

PNOC-EC, the oil and coal arm of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., explained that the capital would be used to fund the development of the existing coal mine covered by coal-operating contract (COC) 61 and the doubling of its current production to 300,000 metric tons of steaming coal by 2012.

"This move fulfills the corporate mandate of securing indigenous energy source for the country," PNOC-EC said in a statement.

The Linadtop coal project is expected to boost PNOC-EC's current production from its

PNOC B1

GDP grows in 1st quarter seen at slightly below 6%

THE PHILIPPINE domestic economy likely grew slightly below 6 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, with the expansion supported by exports, construction, remittances and industrial production, according to a joint research by First Metro Investment Corp. and University of Asia and the Pacific.

The FMIC-UAAP research paper titled "The Market Call" said the modest economic sales and job generation were pointing toward a slowdown in first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth compared to the robust performance of the previous quarters. "Higher headline inflation rate also may cut up a part of consumer spending strength," it said.

The paper noted that February sales of power distributor Manila Electric Co. had increased in terms of actual levels but were showing signs of an economic slowdown. Loading in cement growth was also positive still following the downward trend established during the fourth quarter of 2010 as they went down from January's 2.3 percent to 1.3 percent in February.

But the FMIC-UAAP research noted that January's industrial production had jumped 28.8 percent while exports managed to log in double-digit growth pace at 15.6 percent. It added that the government's fiscal picture seemed to be in order and remittances remained buoyant.

"All told, we think first quarter GDP growth is likely to come, but probably not by much," the research said.

In the fourth quarter of 2010, GDP grew 7.1 percent, bringing the full year growth to 7.3 percent—the highest for the country in the past thirteen years.

Despite the social unrest in the oil-rich Middle East North African region, FMIC-UAAP said remittances would likely remain buoyant as it observed that Filipinos working in the Middle East were deciding to stay put.

On the other hand, inflation was seen remaining below 6 percent for the rest of the first semester. Then, FMIC-UAAP does not expect any further policy rate changes for several quarters.

The research said the widening Middle East crisis was one of the huge factors that affected the unexpected spike in inflation in February.

"It further augmented the inflation fears of people and led the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' to increase policy rates by 25 basis points earlier than we previously anticipated. Nevertheless, we still believe that the worst is over/down given the abundant stock of rice as well as the reported relatively stable price of food commodities by the Department of Agriculture," the research said.

Price stocks in February were 13.8 percent higher than in the same period last year.

Doris C. Dumlao

SMC raises $900M from sale of shares, bonds

SAN MIGUEL Corp. raised $900 million from the sale of a mix of common shares and bonds convertible into equity.

The equity portion of the transaction was priced at P110 a share, which was deemed attractive by the stock-exch market. San Miguel explained that the price was set at the level, which was the low end of the revised indicative range of P110 to P140, to "provide an opportunity for investors to participate in a potential upside amid a generally weak market."

Of the total transaction, $300 million was in the form of common shares while $600 million was raised from the sale of bonds convertible into common shares that will be taken out of treasury-held stocks.

SMC president Ramon Ang said San Miguel was able to draw a significant amount of local and international demand to complete the offering given the diversified local equity base and financial growth in its shareholders.

At P120 each, dealers described the equity offering as "tempting" and "value-level" given good prospects for SMC this 2011, which will mark the first full year that power-generation assets acquired earlier would be consolidated into its books.

In the last few years, SMC aggressively diversified outside of its traditional food and beverage interests and has built up a total capacity of 3,145 megawatts through SMC Global Power. It is now the largest power producer in Luzon in terms of installed capacity.

The exchangeable bonds will have a maturity of three years, a coupon of 2 percent a year and a conversion premium of 25 percent to the offer price. The bonds will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

The shares will be offered to the Philippine retail market from April 25 to 29 and will be closed on May 4.

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IN THIS EVERLASTING LIGHT

FRANCISCO S. LANSANG, JR.

PEACEFULLY JOINED HIS CREATOR
APRIL 20, 2011 AT THE AGE OF 68

His loving wife, **Sylvia**; children **Honeybee** and **Lou**, **Bo** and **Maila**, **Glenn** and **Ruth**, **April** and **Matt**, and **Dondi** and **Bridget**; his sister **Annette** and brothers-in-law **Angel** and their family; his sisters-in-law **Norma**, **Pica**, **Tessy** and **Keith** and their family; and his beloved relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Manila Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Cremation and other details to be announced later.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies."
John 11:25

MARLA S. SHARPE

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 16, 2011

She is survived by husband Douglas and her children Janine, Benjamin, John, and Amanda

Mother Ada and stepfather Lenino
Sisters Sandra and Helen
Brothers Jess and Jose

Wake service every evening at 7 PM at Commonwealth Funeral Homes, Mount Rita, Lahug, Cebu City
Family will be present in the PM

Final Service will be on Saturday, April 23 at 2 PM

In faith, hope, love remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love. — 1 Corinthians 13:13

Jose Leetai Pavia

passed away peacefully in his home on April 10, 2011
at the age of 72

He is survived by his beloved wife Loreto Quijano Pavia; loving children Cherie and Cris, Jerry and Rosary, Nene and Tino, Tibby and Frederic, Dede and John, Pica and Jo, Dede and Jojo; and dear G, Fia as and family.

Adored by his 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His remains lie in Solace Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, from this Monday, April 18 to Sunday, April 24, 2011.

Interment will be on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Mass for R.I.P.s at 10:00 a.m. in Arlington Memorial Chapels, 402 C. Arellano Ext. QC

In loving memory of

Manuel "Boy" Dizon Gamboa

(March 15, 1944 – April 18, 2011)

His beloved wife, **Angelina D.Gil**; his children, **Anne Marie Rosario de la Cruz**, **Michael Albert Angelo**, **M.D.** & **Janessa Dolina**, **M.D.**, **Armando Vincent**, **C.E.E.P.** & **Ma. Rosario M.E.**, **Arvin Joseph**, **M.D.** & **Marie Cheyenne**, **M.D.**, **Miguel** and **Gerard Victor**, **C.E.** and **Archangel**, **C.P.A.** & **Andrea**; his grandchildren, **Alliah Angel Mia**, **Ma. Ana Victoria**, **Heather Angela**, **Nathan**, **Kassandra**, **Alfonso Carlo** and **Ayiel Chiara**; joined by his siblings, **Jose**, **Perla**, **Annie**, **Candido**, **Gloria**, **Aurora** and **Julio Jr.** **M.D.** (†) request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

The remains lie in state at his residence, 34 Road, Street, Pembrook, Cordoba, Dasmariñas.

Interment will be on Sunday, 24th of April, 2011 at the Sta. Ana Cemetery after the 3:00pm mass at St. Andrew's Church, Pasay City.

DEATH NOTICE

FILOMENO JAMOLANGUE SALVINO

November 20, 1930 – April 18, 2011

His remains lie at 1151 San Nicolas St., Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Dasmariñas City on April 20, 2011, 10:00 am.

For inquiries, please call 5332564

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm, for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage."
Psalm 23:4

In loving memory of

Felicidad "Inday" Castro Azurin

1st death anniversary April 21, 2010

Her loving husband, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be held at:

St. Paul of the Cross Church – Marikina City
Our Lady of the Abandoned Church – Marikina City
St. Ignatius Church – Singapore
St. Edward's Church – Winnipeg, Canada
St. Paul Church – Winnipeg, Canada
Mary Mother of the Church – Winnipeg, Canada

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BATAAN
Provincial Capitol Mabatang City

INVITATION TO BID # 2011-015
(Re-bidding)

1. The Provincial Government of Bataan, through its Provincial Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Pesos (₱15,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the project for the **FY 2011 CDS Project 1 – Supply and Delivery of Drugs and Medicines (1 Lot) and 12 Local Projects – Supply and Delivery of Medical Supplies, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents (7 Lots/Lots, etc.)**.

2. The Provincial Government of Bataan now invites bids for the **Supply and Delivery of Drugs and Medicines, Medical Supplies, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents**, for Bataan Medical Center, seven (7) Provincial Hospitals, and twelve (12) Local Government Hospitals. Delivery of the goods is required within the Provincial Capitol, Mabatang City. Bidders should have completed within the last seven (7) years from date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the bidding documents, particularly in Section II, Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through an open competitive bidding procedure using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or ownership owned by Filipino citizens/corporations duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Section 23.4.1.3 of the IRR of RA 9184.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Provincial Government of Bataan and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on April 25, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of ₱ 2,000.00 (see RA 9184, 2nd Paragraph 13.2 requirement).

6. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Bataan Government of Bataan, provided that the Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

7. The Provincial Government of Bataan will hold a **Pre-bid Conference on April 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Bids and Awards Committee Conference Room, Capitol Compound, Mabatang City, which shall be open to prospective bidders.

8. Bids must be delivered to the 2nd Office, Capitol Compound, Mabatang City on or before 10:00 a.m. of May 5, 2011. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

9. **Bid Opening shall be on May 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at the BAC Conference Room, 2nd, Capitol Compound, Mabatang City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

10. The Provincial Government of Bataan reserves the right to reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ROMEO M. SALVADOR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
2nd Office, Capitol Compound, Mabatang City
Tel. Nos. (047) 237-1533 / (047) 237-1520

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **GOV. ENRIQUETA E. GARCIA**
Governor

DTEA – April 21, 2011

Department of Education
DIVISION OF CADELCITY
Cadiz City, Negros Occidental

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Cadiz City invites interested contractors to apply for the bid/s listed below:

Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline / Opening of Bids	
Repair / Rehabilitation / Renovation of Cadiz City Bldg.	₱ 5,750,000.00	April 26, 2011 9:00 A.M.	April 29, 2011 9:00 A.M.	₱ 10,000.00

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent during 8 working hours/days and inspect the Bidding Documents from April 21 to April 29, 2011.

The Bidder for this purpose, has a private contract with to the Repair / Rehabilitation / Renovation of the Bldg. in Cadiz City Negros Occidental.

For more information, please call the Bidding & Awards Committee at Telephone Nos. (034) 493-5071 / 493-5136.

The Department of Education, Division of Cadiz City reserves the right to accept any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **DR. NERI MAVE N. ALBERTOS**
BAC Chairman

DTA – April 21, 2011

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Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.
Amen.
Publication Requested
Pray 3 times a day. Thank you. Publish after 9 days. Thank you.
Jesus, I trust in You.
Jesus, I trust in You.
Jesus, I trust in You.
Thank you, Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Thank you, Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Thank you, Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Pray 3 times a day. Thank you. Publish after 9 days. Thank you

PH export growth seen slowing

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE SPATE of disasters in Japan may affect Philippine exports, particularly electronics, but only in the "short term," according to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

"There are indications that the softening demand will be compensated in the coming months by shortening of or faster electronics components due to the disasters in Japan that have started to negatively affect the electronics industry," said Neda Director-General and Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. said in a statement.

Paderanga said that the temporary suspension of plant operations of at least seven major companies near the Fukushima prefecture in Japan would likely affect demand for exports of semiconductors, electronic data processing units, machinery and transport equipment.

Neda chief says Japan impact temporary

However, he expressed confidence that Japan's economy would bounce back "quickly."

Paderanga's comments came following the National Statistics Office's (NSO) release of export-earnings data for February 2011.

Export receipts in February amounted to $3.864 billion, or a modest growth of 8.2 percent from the same month last year. This brought total export receipts in the first two months of 2011 to $7.9 billion, up by 16 percent from year-ago level.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) expects full-year export growth to decelerate this year to 13 percent, partly due to base effect and the softening of the demand in some segments of the electronics industry (what is last year's growth?)

Electronics, which accounted for more than half of total export revenue in February 2011, totaled $2.07 billion, or down by 2.7 percent from a year ago. Export of semiconductors, which comprised more than a third of the total exports, was also down by 3.8 percent.

"The reduced earnings from semiconductors in February 2011 were partly attributed to the imbalanced supply and demand. Prices are declining, despite the build-up of inventories, due still have the capacity to accommodate demand until June 2011," Paderanga said.

The NSO data also showed that Japan was still the top destination of Philippine goods in of February 2011, with a 17.4 percent share of the total.

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Equity Fund - Peso	1.55805	1.55683
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.30360	1.30370
Managed Fund - Dollar	1.37151	1.37174
Growth Fund - Dollar	1.47814	1.47844
Equity Fund - Dollar	1.58018	1.58084
Peso Money Market Fund	1.00000	1.00000
Dollar Money Market Fund	1.00000	1.00000

OMD Shares 11 Trends to Impact Consumer Behaviour in Asia for 2011

MB member airs side on BSP-Banco Filipino issue

MONETARY BOARD member Nelly Favis-Villafuerte wrote to the Philippine Daily Inquirer to air her side in an item that came out in the Inquirer on April 4, 2011. The letter reads:

"On April 2, the Inquirer came out with a report titled 'BS's selective swing'—about me, BF (Banco Filipino) and the Ramgen Investing Philippines. (In fact, most all the decisions of the group (Monetary Board)[being collegial.)

"The Inquirer insinuates that because MB is collegial in nature, it is as if there is no place for a dissenting view. The decisions of the collegial body need not be unanimous and the BSP governor and the MB must respect a dissenting view of the dissenter like myself, who believes that the dissident (for example) is a frugal, irregular, anomalous (and in some instances scandalous). The dissenter-MB member is not obligated/mandated to succumb to the pressure of the majority and go along with the so-called collegial decision of the MB.

"The Diary says 'So did Banco Filipino have known how Mrs. Villafuerte voted when it came to the decision to put them under supervision? And more importantly, would the bank have known what was going on inside the highly secretive MB meetings all that time?'

"If also speculates here BF would have known how I voted when it came to the decision to put them under receivership. Because the Diary says MB meetings are highly secretive matters. The truth is, the ones looking information to Ric Diary are probably the high BSP officials who are pissed off whenever I object or abstain from voting, particularly on matters that I disagree with and which I support with solid arguments in writing, and which I insist should be included in the minutes of the MB meeting.

"It should be made public that there were two votings on the BF case by the MB members. One on March 14, when the application of BF for emergency loan was being deliberated upon, and two, on March 17 when the proposal to close BF and place it under receivership by PDIC (Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.) was being deliberated upon. The Inquirer (see No. 1 is simply what Del BF originally with the help of the New Central Bank Act. There are only two requirements of Section 6A, that the bank applying for emergency loan is not insolvent and that it has collateral.

"To the BF vs. MB, Central Bank of the Philippines, 306 SCRA 767, Dec. 13, 1999), the test for insolvency was promulgated by the Supreme Court as follows: 'Hence, a bank is solvent if the fair cash value of all its assets, realizable within a reasonable time by a reasonable prudent person, would equal or exceed its total liabilities exclusive of stock and subsidiary; but if such fair cash value is realizable in case sufficient to pay such liabilities within a reasonable time, the bank is insolvent. Stated in other words, the insolvency of a bank occurs when the actual cash market value of its assets is insufficient to pay its liabilities, since ordinarily, stock and net surplus which are not liabilities for such purpose. In arriving at the computation of realizable assets of petitioner bank, respondents used its books which undoubtedly are not reflective of the actual cash or fair market value of its assets.

"Did the Supreme SOP follow this Supreme Court rule on insolvency in resolving the application for emergency loan of BF on March 14? Did the BSP value the assets of BF including receivables pegged the based on the assets' current fair market value as prescribed in the Supreme Court decision aforementioned? Was [the public's] information, there is now a petition case in the Court of Appeals filed by BF to undo this case, and to question the BSP's decision on March 14 that BF did not comply with the provisions of Section 6A of the New Central Bank Act. A bank that is temporarily illiquid (no good credit) of the emergency loan) under Section 6A provision is not insolvent. BF is questioning the matter of insolvency because had the emergency loan been granted by the BSP on March 14, the closure of BF would not have taken place on March 17.

"It is saddening that today the issues surrounding the BF case are already muddled and the real and main issue on insolvency is now sidetracked. For example, allegations raised against BF like Dues accounts, unpaid loans, failure to file financial statements for certain years, dumping high interest rates and other allegations are not at all relevant to the resolution by the MB of the request of BF for emergency loan. What are required are only two, that BF is not insolvent and that BF has the collateral. Also, it is not so if BF is the only bank that committed the alleged acts of weakness. This is far from the truth. Other banks, likewise, have been committing acts constituting violations against the banking laws and regulations. And more important, even if [so-alleged acts have been committed by BF, the reality of the matter is that there is a pending rehab plan and a proposed POS/Solution financial assistance in favor of BF which is now the subject of a pending court case where all these allegations against BF will be resolved.

"Many of us do not know that today there is a pending case in the lower court and also in the Court of Appeals on the BSP-proposed rehab plan for BF and the proposed PDIC-Solidbon financial assistance for BF. The basis of the proposed rehab plan is the ruling of the Supreme Court in BF vs. MB, Central Bank of the Philippines, 264 SCRA 767, Dec. 11, 1996, that states: 'The Central Bank and the Monetary Board are ordered to reorganize petitioner Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank to allow the latter to recover banking in the Philippines under the comprehensive ship of both the Central Bank and the Monetary Board and under such conditions as may be prescribed by the latter in connection with its reorganization until such time that petitioner shall have regained its financial soundness safety to its creditors, depositors and the general public.

"We have seen recently in our banking system, Mrs. Villafuerte led efforts to have a truce between the regulator and the regulated fund, before the retirement [at the last at the Board, as to speak. So now things smell better."

"In the Diary referring to our telephone call to the BSP from our early evening of Sunday, March 13—urging the latter to at least listen to the appeal of BF officials. Unfortunately, the Governor refused to heed my appeal. The initiative of the Governor is one totally contrary to normal considering that there is a very serious emergency at hand involving a bank not resulting from a massive smear campaign against BF. The national dailies were banner ing the news that BF declared a bank holiday. Next time, BF did not declare a bank holiday."

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AIA Group bares strong 2010 financial results, builds momentum into 2011

AIA Group Ltd., the largest independent publicly listed pan-Asian life insurance group in the world, has posted US$ 2.7 billion in net profit, jumping by 34% year on year in terms of International Financing Reporting Standards (IFRS), according to the Group's 2010 audited consolidated financial results ending November 30 last year.

The news on AIA's strong financial performance in 2010 was warmly welcomed by Mr. Philippe Lhs, the longest life insurance company in the Philippines, which is part of the AIA Group. Said Philippe Lhs, President and CEO Mr. Trevor Bell, "More than financial strength, the success of the AIA Group speaks well of how dedicated its people are: our management team, staff, agents, and business partners in all the 15 member companies in the region, including Philam Life. We are proud to be part of this strong and dynamic life insurance organization."

AIA Group also reported strong growth in Value of New Business (VONB), up 22% to 2010 to US$867 million which, in embedded value terms up 38% to US$5 billion and its operating profit before was also up 30% to US$2.3 billion.

Shareholders' equity went up by US$6.7 billion to US$26.6 billion and the company's total assets increased to US$202.9 billion from US$167 billion, the financial results showed.

Free surplus, a distinguishing feature of AIA, increased 31% to US$6 billion at the end of 2010, according to the 2010 performance.

Mark Tucker, AIA Group Chief Executive and President described 2010 as "a very successful year" for the AIA Group as the outstanding years notable distinctions. "Our 2010 results are a significant improvement over 2009 on all key measures, with excellent growth in profitability, driven by a strong existing in-force book of business and a material uptick in new business growth, particularly in the fourth quarter," he said.

"Our very successful IPO marked a new beginning for AIA which, together with changes we implemented in the second half of 2010, has helped to unleash the potential of our business and create strong growth momentum going into 2011," he added.

Tucker said the AIA Group's focus for 2011 will be on key strategic priorities that will deliver sustainable profitable growth and create value for shareholders. These include strengthening agency and partnership distribution channels, increasing their productivity, enhancing products and customer experience, and transforming the organization to be more nimble and customer-focused.

"The AIA Group's outstanding customer franchise, well-respected brand, 100% ownership in 16 of our 15 markets, very strong financial profile, product expertise and distribution reach continue to give us a unique and unchallenged platform for future growth," he said.

"We will pursue these growth opportunities with a strengthened leadership team and more efficient organizational structure in place. As the only pan-Asian listed insurance group focused 100% on this fast-growing region, AIA is very well positioned to win."

In the Group's Other Markets (Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam), AIA delivered a strong VONB growth of 29%, demonstrating its strong positions and diversified footprint across the region.

AIA Group Limited and its subsidiaries (collectively "the AIA Group" or "the Group") comprise the largest publicly listed pan-Asian life insurance group in the world, with a broad footprint spanning 13 markets in Asia Pacific. The Group leads its roots in the region back more than 90 years and has total assets of US$167.9 billion.

The AIA Group meets the protection, savings and investment needs of individuals by offering a comprehensive suite of products and services covering accident and health insurance, life insurance and retirement planning. It also provides employee benefits, credit life and pension services to corporate clients. Throughout extensive network of more than 200,000 agents and over 31,000 employees across Asia Pacific, AIA serves the holders of over 25 million individual policies and over 10 million participating members of group policies.

IPOPHL, SEC join hands to shield firms from piracy

Move in line with thrust to streamline processes

By Abigail L. Hu

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office of the Philippines and the Securities and Exchange Commission have teamed up to protect the intellectual property rights of registered corporations and prevent their trademarks from being copied or infringed.

In a statement issued yesterday outgoing SEC chair Fe Barin said the partnership with IPOPHL was necessary "to ensure the assets of corporations, particularly their intellectual assets."

Under the agreement signed April 13, the SEC will make intellectual property registration part of the roster of services that it offers to corporations.

IPOPHL director general Rizalde Mamaclay Jr. said this collaboration was a prime example of the government's thrust to streamline business processes.

At the same time, it would help protect corporations from intellectual property theft.

Instead of going separately to IPOPHL offices to register their intellectual property, he explained that the agreement allowed corporate owners to do their SEC and IPOPHL requirements under the same roof.

This way, corporations would have little excuse not to register their intellectual assets and the IPOPHL would be able to protect their trademarks.

"We can boost the ease-access model through this added public service made available on-site at the SEC," Mamaclay said. "Both SEC and IPOPHL will utilize information technology in order to safely and efficiently share data in facilitating trademark registration for corporations."

The agreement between the SEC and IPOPHL is part of the latter's holistic approach to solving the country's piracy problems.

Instead of just relying on the conduct of raids and seizures, IPOPHL will be taking a multipronged approach that includes the cancellation of trademark issuance and major's permits, the revocation of SEC licenses, and even the cancellation of visas to the US and other countries of intellectual property rights violators.

ATI raises 2010 spending by 58%

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PORT OPERATOR Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) is ramping up spending for the year for improvements on its current facilities as well as the development of new projects to add to its portfolio.

The company said it has been on an aggressive marketing campaign to increase the number of ship visits that call at its ports around the country.

"The company is committed to continuous improvements in efficiencies of its services and facilities," ATI said in its annual report.

The company said it had set aside P1.9 billion for capital expenditures for the year. This is an increase of over 58 percent from the P1.2 billion it spent in 2010.

The planned investments, ATI said, would be spent for upgrades and new infrastructure and equipment to be used at the Manila South Harbor, currently the biggest facility the company manages.

The money will also be spent on landing equipment for the Batangas Container Terminal.

ATI won last year the contract to operate the Batangas port, located south of Metro Manila.

ATI said it had been marketing the Batangas facility as an alternative to the ports in Manila, especially for exporters located in the industrial boomlands in Southern Luzon.

"Marketing and promotion of Batangas Container Terminal started when the contract was awarded to ATI last March and were full stream when the entire [illegible] to proceed was issued by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) in July," ATI said.

ATI said these marketing efforts include making pitches about the benefits of using the Batangas port for shipping lines, companies in Southern Luzon and various chambers of commerce that do business in the area.

"The marketing program is to attract more shipping lines to call the Port of Batangas will continue in 2011," the company said.

Last year, ATI posted a net income of P2.34 billion, rising by 64.5 percent from P1.16 billion the year before.

ATI is backed by Dubai Ports World (DP World), which was one of the few subsidiaries that Dubai World refused to sell when it was facing bankruptcy in 2009.

SMC raises $900M from sale of shares, bonds

From page B1

shares in Top Frontier Investment Holdings Inc., which will use the proceeds in "repay advances from shareholders" including SMC.

Top Frontier owns 47.5 percent of the conglomerate. It is 49 percent owned by BHE itself as represented by company vice chair and president Ramon Ang while 51 percent is owned by an investor group led by former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin and businessmen Hans Sy, Sel Lee and Jaudeo Ganpat.

Credit Suisse (Singapore) Ltd. and Standard Chartered Bank were joint global coordinators and international joint bookrunners for the secondary shares offering. Goldman Sachs (Singapore) and UBS AG, Daiwa Capital Markets Singapore Ltd. were international bookrunners while ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, BDO Capital & Investment Corp. and SB Capital Investment Corp. were domestic joint bookrunners.

With other banker, Bamchart, Goldman Sachs and UBS arranged the current debt-bond offer. – Doris C. Bumatay

Stocks rebound

From page B1

quarter of 2011 from end-2011 was due to an upgrade in design and the expansion in gaming space by 15 percent.

Value turnover was heavier at P5.5 billion. There were 89 advancers, 53 decliners and 43 unchanged stocks. There was net foreign buying of P472 million for the day.

Sentiment was boosted by the overnight rebound in Wall Street as the Dow Jones Industrial Index regained 65.36 points or 0.53 percent at 12,256.75. – *Doris C. Dumlao*

Ayala ventures ...

From page B1

"These are all in line with Ayala's strategies to augment the country's power supply primarily through renewable and clean energy," Francia said.

Sta. Clara Power also has investments in Subic hydro, Amlan hydro and Balingoan IPP administrator contract. It is majority owned by Sta. Clara Investment Corp., a construction company with local and overseas projects.

Ayala is one of the biggest Philippine conglomerates with diversified business interests—real estate, banking, telecommunications, water, infrastructure, electronics, automotive, education, technology, business process outsourcing and, recently, renewable energy.

'Hot money' growth to slow down

From page B1

those developed markets.

"Foreign funds will continue to flow to emerging markets, the Philippines included, which would in turn continue to provide fundamental support to the peso. However, as recovery in the advanced economies gains further traction, we may see capital flows to emerging market economies at a slower pace than in recent past," Tolentino said.

He said the US government has signaled the end of its pump-priming. There were no talks on a third round of pump-priming by the Federal Reserve after the first two have been implemented.

"If the trend in the advanced economies continues, their interest rates will rise, thus reducing the differential of their rates with those in emerging markets. In turn, capital may possibly flow back to advanced economies," Tolentino said.

He stressed though that given the liquidity in the global economy, portfolio investments to emerging markets would still rise at a torrid pace.

Last year, foreign portfolio investments in the Philippines surged more than 12 times to $4.6 billion, or all-time high, from only $389 million the previous year. Other emerging markets likewise witnessed a jump in hot money inflows.

Nationalists attributed the steep rise to the lingering uncertainty in the economies of the United States and other industrialized countries as well as to the robust growth rates of developing nations like the Philippines.

PNOC subsidiary allots P900M for coal mine

From page B1

mining operations. This is also the first of several projects programmed within the next five years for COC-1, aimed at increasing the coal reserve inventory to meet up with the fuel requirements of the planned 24-megawatt power plant in the area.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras earlier noted that PNOC-EC was expected to take the lead in the development of indigenous resources to help secure a stable supply of energy sources for the country.

Apart from the Lanlang coal mines, the company's other primary projects include the proposed 13.2MW power plant in Isabela and the Mindanao gas project in Bukidnon.

PNOC-EC holds several COCs covering coal blocks in Zamboanga Sibugay, Isabela and Surigao del Sur. It also operates coal terminals in Cebu, Batangas, Zamboanga Sibugay and Manila Harbor, which serve as its handling facility for local as well as imported coal that the company supplies to power plants and cement factories in the Philippines.

PNOC-EC also has interests in petroleum service contracts in Cagayan, Mindoro-pay, Sulu Gulf, offshore Masbate, Calamian, West Calamian and West Palawan.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Food

NEW DIP AL FORNO. Broccoli Pesandor Gaeche, organic broccoli with sun-dried tomato, fresco ladyfinger in Bolshevik

IL SOFFRITO. Baked bucatini with organic eggs, smoke meat truffle paste parmigiano and parmigiano cream

LINGUINI Alla Chitarra with organic egg, crispy chicken and mango leche

Margarita Fores makes a stand–go organic

Culinary trailblazer is partnering with organic suppliers from around the country

By Maryo C. Enriquez
Contributor

CULINARY artist and trailblazer Margarita Fores has a mission: lessening the path to organic.

The objective is manifold: to give farmers more livelihood and to lessen the diners' exposure to pesticide-rich botanicals.

Conventionally grown vegetables are believed to be high in pesticide residue. So, the organic challenge could be compelling, or organic food doesn't come in cheap.

Fores said the issue is defined by supply and demand and economies of scale. Her suppliers, buyers and most produce would make prices more accessible.

Another reason for the high cost of organic food is the farmers' near nonexistence, a social ill by way of influencing young and even older people to return to nature's environment.

However, organic vegetables must be consumed immediately since they are not infused with chemicals and generally less dense to withstand their appearance dwarf life.

"The palette tends to get desensitized with all those chemicals," Fores said. "The produce may look pretty on the shelf. But when your labs something organic, you wonder why it is so sweet and clean-tasting."

Fores is supporting producers of organic vegetables. One of her major suppliers are fellow Ilonggos Ramon Uy Jr. and his wife Francine Montelaro of the Silay-based Fresh Start Farms. They provide herbs, squash and lettuce for Fores' catering business, Glo and Lester.

FORTE. "You are up against the odds. It runs people had the awareness, and look at us. Even Vice supports buy organic. Someone."

Outside of Iloilo, the couple has pioneered the organic advocacy by convincing farmers to use organic fertilizers and adopt sustainable farming practices. Fernando's late grandfather Don Joseph Montelaro, had sought to make Negros Occidental the "Organic Bowl of Asia."

The Uys have launched into Fresh Start Organics, which

ENSALADA INGARDE. Glo's version of the nicoise salad with organic cucumber, organic tomatoes between and mashed herbs in another pond, tomatoes

processes local fruits and juices without artificial preservatives, pure with sabor filling, purees and canned foods.

Fores plans to produce with them her line of organic preserves and home care products using local ingredients. Fores said what starts, known as vetiver, in English, grows in swamps and is used as insect repellant.

Her other suppliers: Paulo Asuncion, brother of model-turned-entrepreneur Bianca Gonzalez, provides tomatoes; Jay Ilustre, Montello of Montilla Farms in Lipa, Batangas; Joselito Montello of Montilla Farms in Lipa delivers organic chicken; Ronald Corrales of Corrales Nature Farm in Majayjay, Laguna, provides the eggs; vegetables, lettuce and pigs.

A "never lady grower" in Bulalacao cultivates tomatoes, lettuce, iceberg lettuce, carrots, leeks, onions and broccoli. Fores is looking forward to the lady's harvest of strawberries, raspberries and asparagus. The supplier sends the week's supply of vegetables, carefully sealed in a styrofoam cooler box. They arrive at the Fores' commissary in their kitchen area.

Most organic producers have been knocking on her door.

The organic tomatoes, cucumber, carrots, onions, leeks and celery are made into soups and salads. The organic beef makes fresh pesto sauce. The organic egg yolks are found in Lester's cookbooks.

Organic goat's milk is the base for the gelato in the catering affair. Organic eggs highlight Glo's Sunday brunch. The same basis are greeted with egg yolks and process truffle paste on bucatini. Fried mango side-up eggs are grilled in Glass Parkwood and linguini laden with bacon and smoke meats. They go with morning cocktails such as pisco bellini, tricana, sauvie and bloody margarita balsamico.

Fores has always sought partners in sourcing the best ingredients. The interest in organic foods was deepened after a bout with thyroid cancer. With difficulty in acquiring organic vegetables for her juices, she planted moringa and pechay in her backyard.

She said people should protect the earth and invest in healthier practices. "Kinder ways should be adopted instead of being engrossed with engineering solutions to increase yield," she explained.

She also urged the churning of plastic bags in favor of natural jutsu bags.

Fores has also been exhorting kids to eat their vegetables by providing them tasty fare. The spinach dip in Glo is a bestseller, especially among the young diners.

The place mats feature "Gulfers," animated figures of vegetables. At Glo Bistro at the Peninsy Point, kids can choose vegetable toppings for the pizzas. "They learn to recognize the taste for organic," Fores said.

Asked if the high cost of organic produce affects the bottom line, Fores replied: "The profit margins are low, but there's an intangible gain that drives me. Seeing a client... Make people know that 'you have a positive business you can about their health.'"

What makes a delicious duck?

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I WAS in a quandary not knowing what would make a good Easter story.

I figured, since Easter was just around the corner, that duck-related fare is good idea.

I asked Maryknoll nun and fat foil scholar Sr. Helen Graham, how eggs, ducks and ducks came to be symbols of Easter.

She wrote: "...just as I suspected, it is the fertility and new life ideas associated with the egg, the rabbit, chicks and ducks... so I would say, go right ahead and eat that those symbolize! Until coming forth from the tomb symbolized by the eggs it is now considered life...

"Will agree on a long eggs-ination on the egg! The colored eggs are also symbolic of the colors of springtime, as well... hmm!"

Thanks much, Sister Helen, you are indeed my favorite Lenten resource person.

Island-born

As we celebrate Easter in other parts, we also would like to welcome the first batch of island-born, antibiotic- and synthetic-free ducks and ducklings.

I have roasted and cooked them duke myself. In fact, I did so repeatedly, ordering one after the other because everyone loved it.

Believe me when I say that it is so good! Those tasty locals are sure to give their improved counterparts a mighty quack for the money, especially since they only go for P240 a kilo.

The fun no more meat is perfect, and less fatty, per se, but, just right. These ducks are plump, tasty, meaty and completely devoid of hoops.

We have Dr. Erwin Cruz, DVM, Most Outstanding Veterinarian in Agro-Business of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association, and president of the Philippine Duck Meat Association, to thank for these superior ducks.

According to him, in 2009, the next products that he wanted to launch after his four-wings chicken were Peking ducks.

It is his goal to reintroduce the meats and make it a viable industry as part of his advocacy, to help small scale farmers produce quality duck meat, as he did so in the past with his free-range chickens and eggs.

I had to ask Doc Erwin why his ducks, particularly, tasted very good, very tasty.

"The ducklings we are accredited PI Ines. The reason: that they come from certified parent-stock lines. Uniformity in quality of meat, texture, harvesting and taste is what we try to achieve.

"Some of the ducks we eat locally are already in need, which causes watering and slow growth, taking longer for the ducks to reach 6 kg. Thus, older ones require longer meat.

"Of course, the common thing that the farmer will do when the ducks need to be raised longer is to cut down the quality feeds. This is why the quality of feeds is very key—it is the life-centers, minerals, etc., that make them more and more lively.

"Our ducks are grown for 56 days (50- to 56-day-old ducks make the best quality meat), reaching a weight of 4 kg live, and 2.7 kg dressed. The target weight is very important for taste and texture.

"When slaughtered too early, the meat is not mature. Too late, the meat gets tough.

"The other reason is the way it is raised. The animals need to be well-housed, well-spaced, well-properly fed. Less stress provides good meat development.

"Growing more high-quality green meat. Herb Chinese chicken, special pigeons and more type quails."

For organic eggs, free or dressed free-range chickens, and Peking ducks, call 0917-901.116, 0917-6983640.

Duck recipe to-die-for

To cook the duck and eat it linking duck-style juice tedious. I would rather go to a restaurant than do that myself.

So here's one of my favorite things to do with Doc Erwin's duck. I fried it and bam, it was duck curry.

Bake the duke!

From me to you, Happy Easter!

Roast Duck Curry

1 c coconut milk, second extraction
1/3 tbsp Thai red curry paste
+ Heat coconut milk in a wok
+ Fry curry paste until fragrant.
2 c coconut milk, second extraction
1 tbsp palm sugar, chopped in bite-size pieces
4 kaffir lime leaves (available at Landco Pharmart), crushed
A handful, literally, of "Thai" basil leaves—makes a difference
2–3 tbsp Thai fish sauce
1–2 tbsp sugar
1 c grapes, mango balls or lychees
1 c cherry tomatoes
+ When curry paste is fragrant or when oil/sauce separates, stir in last coconut "oil," add two more cups of coconut milk. The duck, kaffir leaves, basil leaves, fish sauce and sugar. Let simmer for 10 minutes.
+ Add fruits and cherry tomatoes.

PEKING duck

+ 1 c coconut milk, first extraction.
+ Add two kaffir leaves.
+ Cook through.
+ Season to taste with sugar and fish sauce, finding a balance between the two and the curry paste.
+ Refresh with new basil sprigs before serving.

Roast Duck

1 whole Peking duck
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1 tsp five-spice powder
1 tbsp soy sauce
2 tsp honey
+ Combine salt, pepper, and five-spice powder. Rub on duck.
+ Combine honey and soy sauce, and brush on duck.
+ Leave to marinate overnight.
+ Preheat oven to 350°F.
+ Put duck on roasting rack and roast uncovered, in the middle of the oven, until golden.
+ Do not overcook or duck remains moist. Meat goes for no hour and a half.
+ Chop duck.

One secret is the way it is raised. The animals need to be well-housed, well-spaced and properly fed. Less stress provides good meat development

For my new cooking class schedule and my summer promos, call 0917-5345780/ 0908-2372340-48/8890-9240/2896.

E-mail the author at reggie@inquirer.com.ph

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPA BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PIN LUCIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEHOOFS BY ELIZABETH HOCHWALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRI SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE BY ENRICO ABION

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

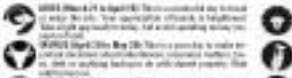
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DAKE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

9			8		2	4		3
	8			5			9	
2								
1								7
	4			7			5	
6								9
								1
	9			8			6	
7		6	1		5			2

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Architect makes a feast from her garden

By Margie C. Enriquez
Correspondent

ARCHITECT PERSIA "Wendy" Regalado-Regalado doesn't get frazzled when friends pop up for a quick bite. Her repertoire for a quick meal: salads, soups, pasta and meats plucked from abundance in trees.

The menus she cooks for ceremonial or refreshments for the Iloilo Study Group meetings are her forte.

The dishes may seem like nothings, but when people take a bite of her marvels, there's always that oomph that makes them memorable.

For Regalado, whether it's whipping up a meal or setting a table, everything is done casually and on a whim.

"On short notice, I start off with what's available, which is usually leafy and fresh fruits," she says.

Her herb garden brings unexpected flavors to her dishes. Chives, which are not easily found in stores, spike up her Thai noodles. Rosemary and thyme enhance the commonalities when the eggplants are also harvested in the backyard.

The curiously colorful is used as side dish for mangoes and other fruits.

"It takes away the cloying taste of fried foods, especially pork, chicken and fish," she says.

Fern sushi roll

As ferns are aplenty, they are add not to make rolls. The following ancient leaves possess local, edged in prepared the classic way, boiled and served with tomatoes. The difference is the oriental sauce are made of sesame oil, vinegar and sweetener. The sauce used to boil the leaves, is mixed with calamansi and marinated with two sugar to make a quick juice.

The calamansi, a mentioned herb, is mixed with strong brine or blanched to make a salad.

In September and October, neighbors look forward to the rambutan harvest. The fruits are sweet and fleshy because they are organic and nurtured with love. Regalado will usually call her neighbors to partake of the harvest and save them with the impatience pass ng urging or banana Mountain Burgers.

They are flavored with beef cubes, heated with eggs and flour, fried, and served on buns filled with lettuce, tomatoes and ketchup.

Regalado concocted a green dry fillet wrapped with whole wheat tortilla. "Green dry flavored bars 'tenders' the meat. The wrap is enhanced with pepper to mayonnaise and cucumbers.

"If you're in a rush to flare the fillet or to fry it in butter, then use lemon instead. Grandma chicken with lemon sauce. It's like frying chicken but with a difference."

The wrap is complemented by shredded cabbage salad topped with pimento pimiento, a medley of herbs, and fragrance from the garden.

"It's fresh tomato stew. The flowery petals are light-tasting and slightly sour, like they add color," for lunch, she topped the salad with bits of raw tuna, also instead of tomatoes, and flavored it with the calamansi sauce.

All this is set atop a dainty tablecloth. "The dark background offsets the white plates with the colorful dishes," she says.

When she makes tuna sandwiches, Regalado says, what makes them unique? She points out that she merely adds more olives for crunch. Regalado puts them on black plates covered atop a black and white tablecloth.

There are also easy to make. Regalado uses veggie meat or Quorn Mushroom Burger patties are not too heavy. The manner of cheese and vegetables makes it a complete meal. As an side to the Mexican dish, she set them on a tablecloth with dish peppers patterns.

Stock of tablecloths

Regalado keeps a stock of tablecloths, which are sourced from the market. She can pull out any print or color from her cupboard. Her plates also flavors Lunella Ghaurol tapestry.

"I like the variety in cut to suit the unique shapes. They're not the usual round ones," she says.

If she were to host a meeting for the Iloilo Study Group, she'll put a cogon basa bag on the table as a centerpiece against an herb bean cardboard table cloth.

"I like the play of the tan, organic textures with the fine craftsmanship," she says.

Or, she'd put nice colors and hangings from a little pots, wrap them with bright batik fabric, tie them with a ribbon and scatter flowers around the tables.

Her centerpieces are simple bouquets from her own wine and mixed with bamboo, pandan leaves or flowers, or big Papaw orchid. Dahlia Pinwheel or Dahlia Fiji is in various colors.

Regalado's formula: "Use what is on hand, get the freshest produce and flowers from the markets, and build on them. Do something that's not been done."

Banana Blossom (Puso ng Saging) Burgers

"These burgers look like the real thing but are much lighter. They are healthier, too, since they are high on fiber. Because these like beef burgers with a whole range of ready, moist—herbs, bun, sauce, mustard, pickle relish, tomatoes, lettuce, onions and then topped with Heaven! Just make sure you make enough because it a light and they'll keep coming back for more," says Regalado.

1 cups puso ng saging cut into thin pieces
½ c. egg chopped small
chopped
1 pc medium onion
2 eggs
All-purpose flour
Salt and pepper
Seasoning
Prepare the puso ng saging. Cut it into same pieces. Mash with cob and until limp and salted. Drain all the salt and squeeze out the water.

Add the onions, shallots and eggs. Mix together. Add enough flour to make the mixture stick together. Flavor with some seasoning.

Form into flat patties. Don't make the patty thick so that the puso ng saging cooks evenly in the center. Fry in a griddle until the edges turn crisp.

Serve on a hamburger bun with all the condiments.

Tuna Sandwiches

1 big can tuna flakes in oil
1 big white onion, chopped
1 bunch celery stalks, chopped cupped to the amount of onions)
Mayonnaise
Salt and pepper to taste
Sliced hot chicken

Drain the can of tuna. In a bowl, mash the tuna flakes, onions and celery.

Add enough mayonnaise to moisten the mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste. If you will use it as a spread, keep the mix in the refrigerator.

Heat the bread. Place the cold tuna mix on the warm bread. Serve with lemon grass tea.

Cabbage Salad

1 big head of cabbage (sliced, diced)

Edible greens and flowers from the garden: parsley, lettuce, blue pulangpan flowers, ferns, green flowers, bon onions, tomatoes

Shredded pieces of lechon sauce) (optional)

Dressing:
1 tbsp white vinegar
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp brown sugar
½ tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
4 tbsp sesame oil

Remove the thick white parts of the outer leaf on the leaves of the cabbage. Discard. Shred the cabbage into fine strips.

Check out the garden as to what can be picked and incorporated in the salad...edible flowers, fruits, leaves. Arrange them on the bed of shredded cabbage.

Add pieces of barbecued or broiled chicken or shrimp, if you want it to be a more filling salad.

Add the dressing just before eating so that it doesn't wilt the leaves. Toss the salad.

Tacos

½ kilo ground beef
3-4 cups dry, shredded (or ½ kilo veggie meat or puso ng saging)
1 pc bell pepper
1 package taco spice
1 big onion, chopped
1 medium tomatoes, diced
1 dozen green, crushed
Condiments:
1 medium cabbage, shredded
1 big onion, chopped
1 medium tomatoes, diced
1 pack sour cream (you can use all-purpose cream soured with some calamansi juice)
1 pack spaghetti sauce
1 pack cheese, grated
Hot sauce
Taco shells

In a pan with a little cooking oil, heat the garlic and onions. Cook until the onions are soft. Add the tomatoes. Cook the tomatoes well. Add the ground beef. Add the taco spice. Set aside to cool.

Set the condiments around the heated taco shells. Make sure that each condiment has a serving spoon or fork. Allow your guests to make their own tacos.

Chicken or Fish Wraps

1 pack cream cheese
Cucumber
Salt and pepper
Cooking oil
or 1 lechon manok
1 pack tortilla or wrapper
Mayonnaise
Grated garlic
Mixed olives
Leeks, cut into 1½ inch lengths
Cucumber, peeled, seeded and cut into ½ inch lengths

Cut up the cream cheese into inch-wide strips. Coat with cornstarch mixed with some salt and pepper. Deep fry. Drain the fish strips on a kitchen towel. Set aside.

Shred the lechon manok into bite-size pieces.

Mix the crushed garlic with the mayonnaise. Place in a squeeze bottle. Also place the butter sauce in a squeeze bottle.

Lay out the tortilla wrappers with leeks and cucumbers on the side.

Let your guests wrap their own wraps as the fish sticks with garlic mayonnaise or the chicken with the lechon sauce.

Tomato-on-Toast

Salted tomatoes
Salt
Pepper
Olive oil
Toast bread

Slice the tomatoes into rounds. Remove the seeds using the pulp. Discard the skin.

Add olive oil, salt, and pepper. Spread on toasted bread. Serve and eat immediately.

Middle-eastern dip is perfect for Lent

By Margie Baga-Reyes

BABA GHANOUSH, paired with warm pita bread, is perfect for a laid back afternoon snack while spending Lent.

This popular Middle-eastern fare is a delightful break from pork and beef. Not to mention, it's a light, healthy, delicious and guilt-free spread or dip for breads.

Baba Ghanoush (also spelled Baba Ghanoui or Baba Ganouge in Persian cookbooks) is a smoky, rich, delicious, olive oil, lemon juice and garlic together, which are combined or pureed to perfection.

Retired advertising and public relations consultant Nancy Hurd, married to an Israeli Fahah Hurd, shares the simplest way to whip up Baba Ghanoush at home.

"It's a very easy-to-do dish that packs a lot of smoky flavor," says Hurd. "It can be eaten in different ways, including as a dip with whole wheat bread or crackers, spread on pita, or added to other dishes. It also goes well with salads and grilled food."

The eggplant is key to good. It is placed directly on a stove for a few minutes until the skin gets a bit charred. The softened flesh is then scooped out from the bone-pelt, pureed in a blender or mashed manually by fork. It's then seasoned with lemon or cucumber juice, garlic and tahini, a thick paste made of ground sesame seed. Tahini is available in specialty stores.

It is a must to drizzle the dish with olive oil on top and chill for a few hours before serving.

"Baba Ganoush can be made ahead of time and stored for a few weeks in the refrigerator," says Hurd.

Ingredients:
2 medium-size eggplant, broiled
2 tbsp tahini (roasted sesame paste)
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tbsp lemon juice or calamansi juice
1 teaspoon pine nuts, crushed
1 tbsp olive oil
Pete sprigs parsley

For suggestions, e-mail the author at the guide@inquirer.com.ph.

1. PARSLEY eggplant. Thoroughly. Brush on top of the mixture for at least 3 minutes on each side. Let it cool and remove burnt skin by moving mixture. Transfer into a plate.

2. USING a knife and a fork, cut whole cut eggplant to small pieces.

3. ADD garlic and salt to taste.

4. ADD tahini.

5. Thoroughly mash eggplant using the fork. Add lemon juice and pine nuts. Mix well. Drizzle olive oil on top. Garnish with parsley, mint leaves and chili pieces. Serve either chilled or at room temperature with warm pita bread, crackers or sliced baguettes.

A Capiz seafood trip

The meat dishes were not to be outshone, however, as every feast also featured perfectly roasted 'lechon'

AT THE Binay Church, where some of us went up the tower to look at the ancient bell cast from 70 sacks of coins collected from the townspeople in the 19th century, all the stairs were covered with purple cloth.

Because we were in Roxas City Capiz, for a celebration that started Friday and ended Sunday, that it was putting to be reminded that the joy. our occasion was Sunday held during the annual senior time in the Church calendar, Holy Week.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fiores

The celebration was to mark the 110th foundation day of the Capiz civil government, hosted by the provincial and city governments and United Coconut Planters Bank. The UCPB also refers to the "seafood trip," a new way to sell the province, was launched.

Fish on pinlights

Seafood was also the theme of the parade of lights that was part of the activities. No street lights were turned on, so the figures of shrimps, octopus, prawns, and fish on pinlights shone through.

Tess Rodriguez Filipinas, who was born with us, the famous Sinsua Bay (a major major beauty) and 2001 Mr Tourism Isabela Manjose, hosts questions, and hosts performing the amazing feat of putting on makeup on the shoe flight to Capiz. They both rode their own floats at a parade that lasted four hours instead of one, because the throng of people was too much.

And then after words, the streets were clogged again because people and vehicles were going home, and there was a multiple traffic jam at each of the malls. The Manila guests thought Iloilo had come to hours down in the Visayas.

Prepare your stomachs, we were told. And it was no joke. Starting in noon to noon in the group offer gle to restaurants or shellfish, pour down. The morning wasn't sufficient to prepare us for the spread of food during lunches, dinners, and a breakfast.

Capiz is branded to be the "Seafood Capital" of the country. And you can guess what the spread mainly consisted of. Grilled oysters shocking red and hot, prawns were huge and firm; fish were mostly grilled, such as bangus, mangrove (mangrove jacks) and bulgan (sapahap, see later), and some cooked in sinigang. Because diamel (angel wings) is not in season, the few that were harvested were distributed judiciously in groups, so everyone could have a taste.

I have been to Capiz several times, but there was still much to be discovered. This happened, small clams that served as appetizers can be found by the seashore. Just dig your feet into the sand, instructed Maria Rocio Chonengel, Capiznon host organizer, and you can get this succulent shellfish.

The gentle Rotea, who did some cooking demonstrations as part of the festivities, told me to taste the bangus (smooth called adobo or paksiw-to-time, a great southeast and perfect when wiped and on mango pieces.

The local cook who did the inasale is Leandro Villamor, who used the bangus liver was too fat, and to the resulting paksiw was not as firm as she wanted it to be. "There is no local name for it, and some of us wanted the paksiw to be bottled. That was tasted during the lunch hosted by Rep. Antonio del Rosario at his backyard.

GRILLED bangus, a mainstay at Capiz buffets

FAT red snapper grills

Beautiful gardens

He and his wife also gave the farewell dinner at Villa Esperanza Verde, their restaurant in the city with its beautiful gardens. Flowers and attentive soldier teens that looked like billboard figures, sentimental ornaments with the body of a human and the head of a horse.

Judy women home also hosted a dinner at the family home and lunch at the Baluyud that required a heavy trip. From the ponds, fish was harvested, then dressed there on the grill, it is what we request, of course, in other places, the freshness of ingredients requiring only the most basic cooking technique.

But the meat dishes were not to be outshone by the seafood. Every hotel had lechon, roasted perfectly, with the dressing frame of moist belly, because the meat roasted the bone (roboyber of fish or meat) is always the tastiest. My chairman and adopted Capiznon Annie Villarosa, executive director of the Gerry Roxas Foundation, joined the food discovery frame of mind by bringing me to the pot of inasal-an, tender chicken cooked with chopped banana pith (ubod) in coconut milk.

In Iloilo I live on chao in Aklan, but was nevertheless thrilled to taste it again. Carmel Bellosillo made me taste her family's version of batchoy, liver and chicken intestine in a soup that she called bas-ay, the same name as the Visayan soup of many ingredients. And there was native chicken cooked with labog, a leaf that is refreshingly sour, and which my friends, the Alfonso sisters (Dominic Jr. and Jr.), told me, comes in both red and green, the red usually used to sour meat soups.

And, yes, Capiz has good desserts from Maymaid's Bayani Manty asks old fashioned items de morcudo, chocorocks, pastillas (shredded), cocanut candy (sangapan), chocolate cake, custard tarts and pudding.

E-mail pinoyfood@yahoo.com

Need to reward yourself? Try luxe ice cream

By Irene C. Flores

ICE CREAM is a universal treat. Ridiculous it, women find better after it is eaten well, and grandparents drink their diets for a cup of this rich, feel-good sweet.

Häagen-Dazs, the premium brand from Arras, France, claims to be different from the usual supermarket brand and gourmet ice cream in terms of taste, packaging and price.

The ice cream is trademark deep red cups and tubs was created by Reuben Mattus, who started selling fruit ice pops in New York with his mom in 1921. He then made ice cream in 1961. One of chocolate, coffee and vanilla, sold by the pint in 1964. Over the years, he developed more flavors, and was said to be so meticulous that it took six years to find strawberries "sweet enough" to be incorporated in his ice cream.

Today, Häagen-Dazs is available in 50 countries, from Lebanon to Belgium. The first local branch opened in 1998 at SM Megamall.

Free summer bag

For summer, Häagen-Dazs is offering customers a limited edition floral shopping bag for every P1,000 worth of Häagen-Dazs ice cream, inclusive of a Order de Leche pint or mini cup purchased from supermarkets (S&R, Rustans, Landmark, Duty Free, Robinsons and Landmark) or branches.

GET a free tote with your Häagen-Dazs Dulce de Leche ice cream

'Häagen-Dazs reminds people of celebrations. It is a festive food product'

Ok, buy the bag for P300 at Häagen-Dazs SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall and Robinson's Place Ermita, with an P800 purchase with any Dulce de Leche variety.

Filipinos are big ice-cream eaters, said brand manager Cathy Cuerte, because we are in a tropical country and have a sweet tooth.

"Häagen-Dazs reminds people of celebrations. It is a festive food product. You eat it as a reward, because you did something special or a good surprise happened," she said in a recent media lunch in Luneta, Ermita.

Luxuriously creamy

Dulce de Leche ice cream, international in 1998, is one of the local bestsellers. It is smooth ice cream with caramel ribbons and cream. Filipinos love it because it has remnants of caramel candies, caramel based desserts, and reminiscent of our own leche flan.

Other most-ordered flavors are Macadamia Nut Brittle and Strawberry. Chocoholics—mostly vanilla based, because Filipinos like their ice cream on the sweet side rather than bitty or tart, said Cuerte.

Other flavors include Dark Chocolate Orange and Cappuccino Truffle. There are other products—Coffee Almond Crunch Sublime (coffee ice cream with milk chocolate coating and crunchy almonds); Crispy Sandwich (ice cream sandwiched between caramel coating and wafer); Icecream Ice Cream Cakes; crepes and waffles.

Easy on the ice cream, though, because it packs a lot of calories, reminded Cuerte. It's too sinful to be taken in excess. It's best to have it once in a while.

Häagen-Dazs is at SM Mall of Asia, SM Mega Atrium, The Podium, Glorietta, Greenbelt and Robinsons Place Ermita. Visit www.haagendazs.com.ph.

Vanilla Chocolate Island

1 scoop Häagen-Dazs Cookies & Chocolate

1 scoop Häagen-Dazs Belgian Chocolate

Crepes

Belgian milk chocolate sauce

Whipped Cream

Chocolate shavings

Lay the crepe onto a serving plate and warm for a few seconds in the microwave. Drizzle with chocolate sauce. Place ice cream. Finish with a touch of whipped cream and top with chocolate shavings.

CHOCOLATE Chip 'Pizza'

Summer favorites with a twist

SAN MIGUEL My Great Food Club throws up summer comfort food with quick and inventive touches to keep everyone cool during the hot months.

Fiesta Hale-hale Split

1 scoop Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, vanilla

1 scoop Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, ube

1 scoop Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, dinner

2 tbsp macerated red kaong

2 tbsp macerated kidney beans

2 tbsp macerated banana

2 tbsp macerated nata de coco

½ cup whipped cream

1 tbsp toasted rice crispies

½ cup crushed ice

To assemble, place scoops of vanilla, ube and cheese ice cream in a banana split serving dish. Arrange macerated fillings on the mint then garnish each with whipped cream on top of the ice cream. Top with toasted rice crispies. Serve immediately.

Serves one.

Chocolate Ice Cream Pie

3/4 cup Magnolia Gold Butter, melted

¼ cup granulated sugar

4 cups crushed graham crackers

1.5 L Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, vanilla

1.5 L Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, chocolate

1 cup chocolate curls

1 cup whipped cream

Glaze

Prepare two 6-inch pie pans. In a bowl, combine melted butter, sugar and graham crackers. Mix well. Divide the mixture evenly into the pie pans. Press the mixture firmly to the bottom of each pan. Chill until set.

Divide the ice cream into two and fill each of the prepared pans with vanilla ice cream. Spread evenly then top it with the chocolate ice cream. Garnish with chocolate curls and whipped cream. Freeze until set.

Serves 10.

Chocolate Chip 'Pizza' with Ice Cream Balls

10-12 pcs jumbo chocolate chip cookies

250 ml all-purpose cream

500 ml Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, chocolate

500 ml Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, strawberry

500 ml Magnolia Ice cream Classic, mango

Sprinkles and chocolate curls for garnish

To assemble, spread an even layer of all-purpose cream over the top of the cookies. Top with scoops of ice cream and decorate with candy sprinkles and chocolate curls. Serve immediately.

Serves 10-12.

Affogato

500 ml Magnolia Ice Cream Classic, vanilla

1 tbsp San Mig Coffee Instant Black Coffee dissolved in 240 ml hot water

½ cup Cano Macador Biscuit

Cinnamon powder and whipped cream, for garnish

Divide the ice cream among four heat-proof glasses, coffee cups, or bowls. (This can be done several hours in advance and kept covered in the freezer.)

Just before serving, pour 4 tbsp of hot coffee and 2 tbsp of the brandy over each portion of ice cream. Top with whipped cream and cinnamon powder if desired. Serve at once.

AFFOGATO

DINING OUT

FISHERMAN'S PLATTER

CleoDaddy offers Fisherman's Platter in the showrooms of Holy Week. The restaurant also offers delicious salads, Fish and Chips, pasta, crabs, freshwater prawns, shrimps, New Zealand Mussels, among others. CleoDaddy opens its new branch at Solmed Mercal, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Other branches are at Ever Gotesco North, Edsa cor. Quezon Avenue, QC (tel. 332-3445); The Ledge, 63 Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ortigas (tel. 470-3079); 84 Scottsdale High Street, Tagaytay (tel. 046-4316).

Salmon Belly

The Heritage Hotel Manila in cooperation with the Earth Day Network and Greenpeace present the third celebration of Kadeli and Earth Day featuring "egg-citing" and environment-friendly specialties! Kadeli buffet and family style dine, on April 24, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. at the Riviera Cafe. Executive Chef Alex Uy and his team's special Easter buffet menu for a symphony of flavors. Included in the feast will be grill Red Mullet, Squash, Salmon Belly, Veal Sinigang, Rib Eye, Shrimp Tempura with Chinese and Chicken Filet Galantine, Vegetable Lasagna, Stir Fried Black Pepper Beef and Chinese Bhakti, among others. Kadeli guests dessert others Chocolate Mousse, Chocolate Lava, Peanut Butter Pie, Tiramisu, Sunflower Strain for cakes and many delicious sweet desserts. For reservations, call 814-8888, e-mail food-beverage@heritagehotelmanila.com.

Bihon Noodles

Dipan Restaurant's famed Barbecue Party offerings—its new Bihon Noodles—the Pancit Canton, Garlic Sotanghon and Spaghetti. The delicacies good for four to six persons.

There's also Party menu for a group of 10. Five-one-piece Pork Barbecue steaks, Pan Boneless Chicken Barbecue steaks, two Bihon Noodles, two pitchers of Manisa and two pitchers of Choco Merengue for dessert, for less than P3,000.

There's also all-seafood barbecue party for 10 two grilled Bangus belly steaks, three Grilled Pork steaks, two Grilled Tuna steaks, two Bihon Noodles, two pitchers of Manisa and two pitchers of Choco Merengue for dessert, for less than P3,000.

Bangus spread

Pan De Manila has introduced Extra Virgin Olive Oil Bangus in can and tuna spread, spicy and recipes developed with Century Tuna. There's also the new Magnolia creation: the "Step-by-Melting Cheddar Cheese" which is an ideal partner of Pan De Manila's bread creations. For inquiries, email pandemanila_ph@yahoo.com or call (02) 818-0401.

TUNA SALAD WAFFLE

For Lent, the Tuna Salad waffle steals the spotlight from all other Waffle Time variants. Baked on site so that customers can enjoy it fresh and hot, the Tuna Salad waffle is filled with tuna chunks and a spunky dressing. It's a complete meal-on-the-go, convenient for road trips. It can also be served in the freezer, to be thawed, and reheated anytime during the Holy Week hiatus. Sold individually and in boxes of six and 12, the Tuna Salad waffle is available at all Waffle Time outlets nationwide.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Edwin G. Nebrada

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David Cook, Katy Perry guest on AI

THE TOP 7 "American Idol" finalists take on songs from the 21st century tonight, as it airs on Channel 2 (Kona TV Channel 11 Same time tomorrow, dreams.") champ David Cook returns as the AI stage with his latest hit, "The Last Goodbye," while Katy Perry performs her new single "E.T." Replays are on tomorrow, 7 p.m. and Tuesday, 6:40 p.m.

CLICK!

Kuh Ledesma, 'pusher' mom

By Amy Nieves
Correspondent

ISABELLA Gonzalez and mom Kuh Ledesma

"HE WON'T a pusher, you know," says Isabella Gonzalez (stepdad Ben Gonzalez, with a quick follow-up: "But in a good way but in a manner that inspires me."

Mom is Kuh Ledesma, who watches with amusement as her daughter chats away. In 10 minutes, Isabella has updated everyone on the table about her favorite movie previews, her current reading list, her set projects, her top-secret theater projects and, most importantly, her mother.

"At home, we're always singing," says Isabella. "(Kuh breaks) a song a day! He Means the Most Sweet Enough. Anyway, she has greatly limited that. I should not make an effort to stay here and work on my career instead of paying everyone to pursue a degree. Because I think she's going to miss me. And after relieving it was like, yes, she has a point. We've decided I should quit it is my third show 2015 and see what happens."

Benefit gig

What is why Isabella is joining Kuh in a back-to-back concert May 6 and 7 at the Music Museum. "My O and O (Mom and Me)" is their way of celebrating Mother's Day, as well as an event to raise money to build a community library in a senior's shanty town. Says their mother, the lovely Isabella:

Both mother and daughter strongly attest to their musical bond; Isabella even does a vintage concert T-shirt from her mother's first in-store Coliseum gig, Kuh Loves Me," for the occasion. "I know it sounds a little tragic now but I want it only on very, very special occasions. It's cozy to wear it," Isabella proudly says.

Their dynamic seems like chalk and cheese...two completely different people—on the surface. But, as Isabella claims, "Oh, my mom's really melodic. At home she does so-so and a lot, with Shakespeare and Italian songs pa. When we have a movie night, she sits out a lot of the time. In six foreign scenes, mind you."

Thankfully, Kuh, 56, is never exasperated about Isabella's chameleon tendencies, even if the latter admits she has to (identify by revealed some of her mother's secrets in mixed company while growing up.

"I was a kid like Isabella in high school," says Kuh. "But there were things in my life that changed me. I was in high school in the province when my parents split up, which was not an acceptable thing back then. Even if people weren't actively ostracizing us, I felt different. I learned to channel my energy into being creative."

Bel, Isabella and the entire way, since Kuh and husband Lester Gonzalez also broke up?

"The main difference here is that Is and Ben dad are very, very close. She's probably closer to him than she is to me, believe it or not," says Kuh. "My dad didn't have to live (and with us. All we knew was that he'd get home and he'd be super nice. We didn't know how to react to anything that didn't involve spending."

That's why she wasn't confident in relationships with men until recently, Kuh admits. "As in (that, you do everything you can to give your love performances, but young people, they are not always. Sing, they're selfish things for us. Now I've learned to enjoy life, the audience, the people around me."

Isabella thinks her mother has become "a more nurturing person over the past decade. She used to be more of a boy (play) I seriously love how she has changed, because she's really, helping me out, but it's balanced by knowing I need to become my own person, too."

In Isabella's case, she's said to be dabbling in a singer-songwriter-visual artist-actress-director and other hyphens she wants was to others to jot down.

Lucky daughter

After studying in London, Los Angeles and a semester in the University of the Philippines Film Arts program (Kuh interjects, "Ang nanay ng anak ko ay nag-aral sa UP"), Isabella is poised to plunge into the scene for real this time.

There are Cinder projects with Ed Gonzalez and Bela's frequent collaborator, Freddie Santos.

Isabella also actively maintains a YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/JENYOnebella) and a Tumblr account (isabellaisabella.com) to host her artwork.

But Ms Music Museum concert, Isabella's proudest contribution is the show's theme song, "My One and Only," which she wrote while working on her guitar-playing skills. "It's our gift," she says, "as a mother-daughter tandem, to all other families out there."

Network issues guidelines to protect kids in its shows

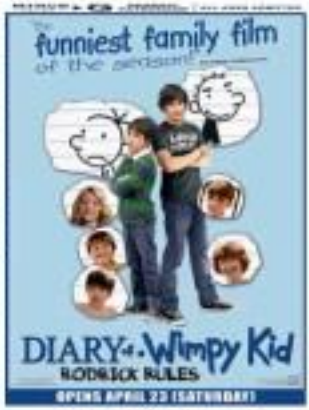
By Marinel R. Cruz

A MONTH after TV5 and its flagship program, "Willing Willie" got undecided to a controversy on the alleged exploitation of a minors the broadcast network released a set of guidelines on the "treatment of children as viewers, subjects, talents or participants."

In a statement sent to reporters Entertainment on Tuesday, the network said the new policy was "in line with its commitment to support the intellectual, emotional, psychological, physical and social development of children."

The statement also said: "It is the network's sincere intention to implement effective precautionary measures to guarantee that no rights, especially children's rights, will be violated in the production and broadcast of its radio and television programs."

NETWORK 21



Ali Sotto: A lot of TV hosts have no redeeming value

By Marinel R. Cruz

IT WASN'T always fun and glamorous and Ali Sotto of her life as a diplomat's wife in Madrid for three years.

The TV host returned to Manila recently and resumed her career.

"I did all the hosts chores in Madrid. I went to the market, cooked and did the laundry," she told Inquirer Entertainment during the launch of her new show "Star Box" on GMA 7. "Our morning help came only once a week. Hiring house help in Europe is really expensive. We got charged 12 euros an hour."

Ali is married to Jesus Boules, a Russian-American diplomat of the US Embassy. Jesus's work led the couple to live in different parts of the world, like in Greece in 2000 and then in Spain in 2007.

TAKE FIVE

"The upside was that I got to see all of Europe," Ali said. "You just get in the car and drive to Portugal, or go up north to San Sebastian (in Spain) and then after only 45 minutes you can already cross the border to France. You can go up and down to Monaco. I did all that. I wouldn't exchange that for anything in the world."

But Ali is back on a TV host in the daily morning talk show "Star Box," which engages people on the street to join discussions on topics from the most controversial political issues to the most pressing issues of the day.

Ali shares hosting chores with DJ Papa Jack of Love Radio and two of the members of the boy singing group SLBA—the twins SIM and SIU. The show airs live in selected areas.

Did you miss working on TV?

Ali, I've been doing it since I was 18. And my husband doesn't mind. He's very supportive because he knows that when he tells me to push my buys and go, I'd do it for him.

Did you have a hard time readjusting to TV work?

No. I just picked up from where I left off. It's a calling. It's a privilege that people listen to what I say that I can make a difference. There are a lot of (TV) hosts who have no redeeming value. I want to do something about that. I'm not just being prettified. I just want to help uplift the industry.

How did you react when this job was first offered to you?

It took me a while to say yes. There were other offers. I talked with (the) networks, too, and this was the project that pushed through.

What the concept for this show was explained to me, I said, "Wow! This is something new." I found it challenging. It's not the usual question-and-answer format. It's getting out the news-watching. People don't know if the Filipino audience would be positive, or voice their opinions freely. We're testing that concept with this format.

ALI SOTTO 21

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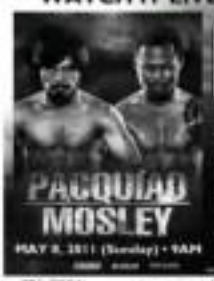

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MALL EVENTS

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April 24, 2011

TV host Willie Revillame in a file photo.

Network issues guidelines to protect kids in its shows

From page B1

TVI, "Willing Willie" and program host Willie Revillame became the subject of hate campaigns on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter as a reaction to the pre-fan massacre of a young contestant on the show's March 12 episode.

Shamed, humiliated

Six-year-old Jan-Jan Jesse was one of six contestants, aged 6 to 11, who danced for the show's "Willtime Ingrow" segment. The boy's performance, described by netizens as a "macho dance," also drew protests from viewers, government agencies and other concerned groups. They all claimed the boy was "shamed and humiliated."

In response, TVI appointed an ombudsman to conduct a "thorough investigation" on the incident and "similar matters."

Included in the guidelines is the appointment of a child welfare coordinator, "with appropriate background and training," who will be present at each stage of a program's production process—auditions, interviews, rehearsals and production conferences, among others.

The network also promised to conduct regular seminars and sensitivity training sessions for all talents and employees in production. "This is to ensure that all programs consistently comply with the guidelines," the statement said.

Viewer feedback

"To be more sensitive and responsive to its viewers," TVI said it would set up a "viewer feedback mechanism." Complaints sent to the ombudsman at the 915 ombudsman@tvi.com.ph would be "handled confidentially and with discretion."

TVI's legal counsel and ombudsman Christine Dino earlier reported the creation of two standards compliance groups: an advisory board, tasked "to formulate and periodically review the network's broadcast standards and policies," as well as a compliance board.

"All programs, plugs, and other non-program materials aired on TVI...Mayor/TV Radyo, Aparoli, as well as on the TVI and Interaksyon websites shall be monitored by the compliance unit," the network declared.

A child psychologist will also be consulted in the implementation of the guidelines, TVI added.

The station said the guidelines were formed in consultations with the Philippine Children's Television Foundation Inc., creator producers of the kiddie educational show "Batibot," which also airs on TVI.

"The guidelines [articulate the network's] general policies on the treatment of children, with specific provisions on children's programming, news coverage pertaining to children, participation of children in programs, and exploitative measures," it said.

TVI also said it will comply with other standards that may be formulated by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, the Department of Labor and Employment and other concerned agencies.

"With the guidelines in place, TVI hopes to contribute to building a socially responsible community with genuine respect and sensitivity toward all children and their families," the statement said.

Ali Sotto: A lot of TV hosts have no redeeming value

From page B1

Rhett's your relationship with the youngest talents?

At first, the kids felt intimidated. Boy Isaiah naman ako (I felt I discretely tried to make friends with them. To make us work together is part of the network's plan. Para hindi kailangang is different from mine. The twins have their own.

Are you open to acting again?

Only if I'm with a host-driven mood for the project. But if it's just be one of the cast members, long na lang. I'll just leave acting to others. I've been in the business for 34 years. I'll be 58 in May.

How do you plan to celebrate your birthday?

I'll have it to my husband to plan. If I had my way I prefer that he surprise me with a getaway somewhere, rather than organize a party. However, I recently lost close friends like Johnny Delgado and Nudy Fernandez. I also have friends who are sick. These experiences made me appreciate life more. I have to have some sort of thanksgiving on my birthday so I might still change my mind (about a party).

Do you at least have a birthday gift for yourself?

I want to buy a Power Plate. It's an exercise equipment that (singer) Madonna uses. I'm still saving up for it. It costs around P100,000. If not that, a trip to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. I've always wanted to see it.

Are you still in touch with (former husband) Mario Soto?

We're friends. I went to the wedding of Oyo (Mario's nephew) and Bernice (Hermosa). Up to now, I still get invited to important events by the Soto clan.

You're still using Soto's surname even though you've already remarried.

I have the blessing of the Soto clan. When I first joined show biz as a singer in the 1970s, I was called Aloha. When I returned in 1987, the deal was, my manager at that time, changed my screen name to Ali Soto. During my first year, for the third time, I got married. That's why I was overheard (when announcing) Dee said, "That's Aloha." The other said, "Hindi si Ali Soto 'yun."

("Face Off" airs on weekday mornings after "The Buzz Feed: The Showbiz Edition" on GMA-7.)

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 HALL PASS 1:00, 3:10, 5:20 7:30, 9:45

2 BIG MOMMAS LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:15

3 GNOMEO & JULIET in 3D 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

4 RIO 12:35, 2:15, 5:15, 7:35, 10:25

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

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1: CLOSED
2: CLOSED
3: CLOSED
4: CLOSED
5: CLOSED
6: CLOSED
7: CLOSED

GREENBELT 1
1: CLOSED
2: CLOSED

GREENBELT 2
1: CLOSED
2: CLOSED
3: CLOSED
4: CLOSED
5: CLOSED

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: CLOSED
2: CLOSED
3: CLOSED
4: CLOSED
5: CLOSED

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: CLOSED
2: CLOSED
3: CLOSED
4: CLOSED

MARQUEE
1: CLOSED
2: CLOSED
3: CLOSED
4: CLOSED

MARKET! MARKET!
1: CLOSED
2: CLOSED
3: CLOSED
4: CLOSED
5: CLOSED
6: CLOSED
7: CLOSED

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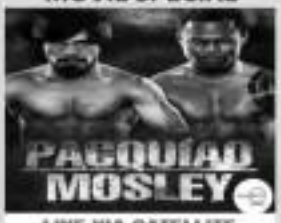

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How to look good—with duct tape

A FEW weeks ago, photographer **Raymond Kane** invited me to coffee for the fourteen billionth "How To Look Good Without Hemoglobin." He enumerated several tips and hints that he swears by, so his subject would look smashing even without that hormone found in tomatoes, salmon and some of red wine.

He advised eating a low-salt diet before a photo session, stretching the chin for three whole pencil's heart's been very kind to, getting the right amount of sleep, rubbing the eyebrows for a bright-eyed look, drinking lots of water, and saying "E" instead of "cheese." (He gave both that last tip when he took me engaging my camera.)

I definitely agree with all those things. That said, there were a few things he overlooked—things that I shall add from a subject's perspective.

Spanx

You're probably fond of a girdle—that stretchy, binding bit of underwear universally worn by mothers and grandmothers to smooth out bulges beneath their clothing. The current version is called "spanx" or "Spanx."

Spanx is actually a brand of undergarment collectively named "body shapers." They're extra underwear that, as quickly grasped, is cheap dress, or even a pair of trousers. These undergarments come in different fits and address different requirements. Some fit the whole body from flat-chested to thin-lipped, while others focus on the lower body.

It's important to wear the right underwear for a dress because visible panty lines aren't exactly appealing. Although they probably could be easily removed by Photoshop, the results before if one can eliminate this tedious step by simply pulling on a body smoother.

For a dress, I make sure to bring a strapless bra, a backless and a lower body smoother, because I'll never know what the stylist would bring, so the accessories are concerned.

Hilarious reality

Here's a fabulous photo of **Pamela Anderson** on the back cover of Jane book "Motherhood and Hollywood: How to Get a Job Like Mine." She is wearing a fabulous black strapless evening gown, held together at the top by large strips of duct tape and at the bottom by a big clamp. There is extra underneath, a quickly grasped, a clingy dress, or even a pair of trousers. These undergarments come in different fits and address different requirements. Some fit the whole body from flat-chested to thin-lipped, while others focus on the lower body.

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